Bengaluru Thursday, September 18, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 259 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Neeraj qualifies for World Championships finals

To meet Pakistani rival Nadeem

Page 15

Amid tariff talks with US, PM makes pitch for swadeshi

On 75th birthday, Modi lauds troops for Op Sindoor

PM Narendra Modi in Dhar in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. PTI

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Calling for self-reliance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday made a pitch for promoting domestic products to ensure that India became a developed nation by 2047.

"This is the season of festivals, and at this time, we must focus on the mantra of swadeshi. I have a humble request to my 140 crore fellow countrymen — whatever you buy, it should be made in our country. It should carry the sweat and hard work of an Indian. It should carry the fragrance of the soil of our motherland," Modi said on his 75th birthday at Madhya Pradesh's Dhar,

Modi said that doing this will ensure that "our money remains within India".

The PM's comments come in the wake of the tariff negotiations with the US. Even as the tariff tensions seemed to sour relations between the US and India, President Donald Trump on Tuesday wished Modi on his birthday, calling him a "wonderful" person.

Modi urged traders to make the initiative a success. "I appeal to my trader brothers and sisters. Support me in this effort for the betterment of the nation. I wish to see India becoming a developed country by 2047. The path to that lies through Atmanirbhar Bharat, through a self-reliant India," he said.

▸ Modi, Page 6

EU's new agenda on India ties, Page 13

Trump: India in drug transit country list

President Donald Trump named China, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan among 23 drug transit or illicit drug producing countries, saying that by manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, they are threatening the safety of the US and its citizens.

Details on Page 12

Sites 'scam': ED arrests ex-MUDA chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: The ED has arrested former MUDA commissioner GT Dinesh Kumar on charges of money laundering, sources in the central agency said on Wednesday.

The arrest came after ED officials searched two Bengaluru properties of Kumar. The searches were in connection with the alleged scam in allocation of MUDA sites.

The sources said the arrest isn't directly linked to the MUDA case involving CM Siddaramaiah's wife, but is focused on all illegal allotments.

Details on Page 5

Asia Cup: Pak withdraws threat, returns to play

DUBAI: After an evening of the 'will they-won't they' dance, Pakistan eventually saw the writing on the wall, hastily abandoning their plans to boycott their T20 Asia Cup fixture against UAE on Wednesday, which would have ended their interest in the tournament.

Earlier, the ICC had dismissed their original request for match referee Andy Pycroft's removal. A boycott of their must-win game was very much on the table until 45 minutes before the scheduled start.

Details on Page 16

UKP land cost to hit development spend

Revenue shortfall projected, state's borrowings reach limit

DH EXCLUSIVE

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

BALANCING ACT

UKP to cost additional expenditure of Rs 75,000 cr over 4 yrs

- This will require around Rs 18,000 crore annually
- Money for this can come from a 20% cut in development outlay
- Cuts will hit education, healthcare, urban development and all other departments

Karnataka must slash developmental spending across the board as that is the only option to fund the Upper Krishna Project (UKP), the finance department has said, revealing how grim the state's fiscal woes are, and with frightening implications.

For the UKP, the government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs 75,000 crore over the next four years, requiring around Rs 18,000 crore annually, based on new compensation rates approved by the Cabinet for acquisition of 1.33 lakh acres.

Money for this can come from a 20% cut in the developmental outlay of Rs 80,197 crore (excluding the 'guarantee' schemes and committed expenditure), freeing up Rs 16,039 crore, the finance department said in an internal note, which *DH* has reviewed.

The cuts will hit education, healthcare, urban development and other departments.

If department-wise allocations are not cut, then the government will have to unlock Rs15,000 crore by scaling down on the flagship 'guarantee' schemes and subsidies for irrigation pump sets, the finance department, which reports to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has said. The government is spending Rs 51,034 crore on the 'guarantee' schemes this year.

Under the UKP, the height of the Almatti Dam will be raised to irrigate 5.94 lakh hectares in Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Koppal and Gadag districts, making it a crucial project for north Karnataka.

Fund cuts are the only way forward as resource mobilisation seems unviable.

In the current fiscal, the state is projected to face a revenue shortfall of Rs 22,000 crore against the estimated revenue receipts of Rs 2.92 lakh crore.

▸ UKP, Page 6

Will move SC, says Maha

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said the state government will approach the Supreme Court if Karnataka goes ahead with its plan to increase the height of Almatti dam.

'EC to be ready for SIR in Karnataka by Sept 25'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Election Commission is expected to be ready for conducting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka by September 25, well-placed sources said.

The EC will notify the exact dates for the exercise, which has to be completed within three months once the notification is out.

The last SIR in the state was conducted in 2002. According to the sources, there were around 3.5 crore electors in Karnataka in 2002, while the current number is expected to be around 5.5 crore.

The exercise will be conducted in five main phases, which include hearing of claims and objections.

After the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) downloads the pre-filled enrolment forms, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will go from house to house and distribute two copies of the forms.

5 phases of SIR

- House-to-house enumeration
- Publication of draft rolls
- Hearing of claims and objections
- Verification of documents
- Publication of final rolls

During SIR, all proceedings on forms 6 (first-time voters), 7 (objections) and 8 (correction) will be frozen.

▸ SIR, Page 4

Bihar EVMs to have colour photo of candidates, Page 7

SIT finds skeletons near Dharmasthala

MANGALURU/UDUPI, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala 'mass burial' case discovered human skeletal remains at multiple spots on Wednesday when it resumed search operations in Banglegudde forest near the Nethravathi bathing ghat.

During the searches, skeletal remains, including six skulls, were reportedly found on the surface level at nine spots. However, the SIT has not officially confirmed this.

"It is true that human remains have been found during the search. But the operation is not yet complete, and at this stage, we cannot disclose further details," an SIT official said.

According to sources with the SIT, mahazar was completed at five spots where the skeletal remains were found, and the sleuths took custody of the recovered material. Cloth pieces were also recovered and soil samples collected during the operation.

A team of officials, including SIT members and forensic experts, collecting skeletal remains from Banglegudde forest near Dharmasthala on Wednesday.

The inspection at other identified spots will continue on Thursday.

The sources, however, said the operations were part of an independent probe and not connected to the previous sites or exhumations.

The searches involved over 40 personnel, including forensic science experts, forest department staff, revenue officials and local gram panchayat staff.

▸ SIT, Page 6

KARNATAKA VEERASHAIVA LINGAYATH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN-U85300KA2021SGC143297
5th Floor, Visvesvaraya Mini Tower, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Street, Bengaluru-560 001 Email ID:mdveerashvalingayathagok2021@gmail.com Ph No.080-22865522

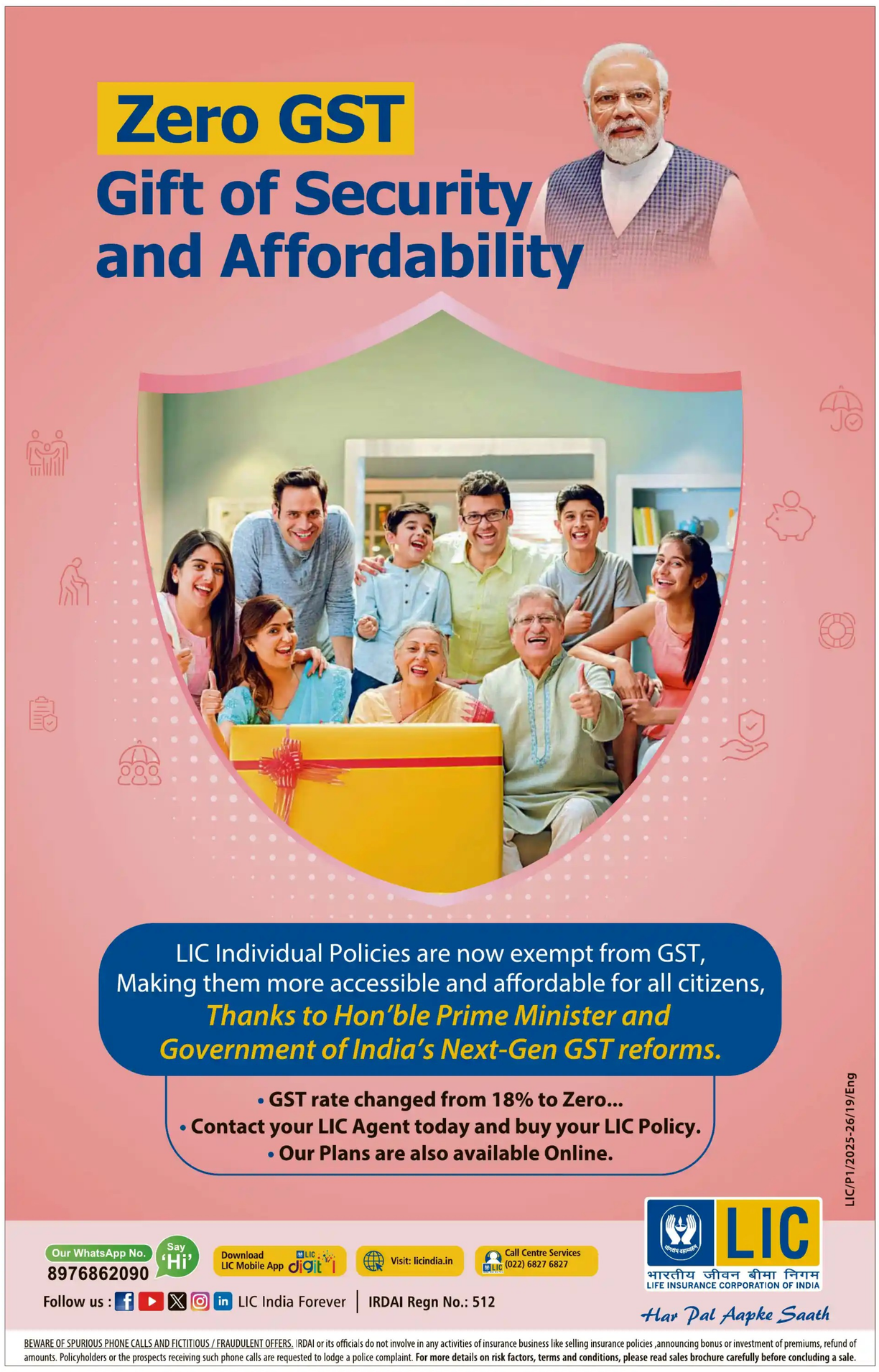
Announcement

Honorable Chief Minister, With the vision of providing equality and social justice to all classes at all times and out of social concern, all citizens are entitled to a social and educational survey, in accordance with the principle of equality to prohibit any discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, sex and place of birth as provided in Article 15 of the Constitution of India and in accordance with the principle of equality to provide equal opportunities to all in the field of general employment as provided in Article 16 of the Constitution, the purpose of the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission Social and Educational Survey is to obtain information from the government scientifically and factually on the problems. This is not a process to be undertaken under the Census Act.

Since there is a lack of reliable statistical information to formulate programmes for the advancement of people belonging to backward classes of all religions and castes, this survey is to conduct a comprehensive survey of every family in the state, including backward castes and other castes, analyse the social, educational, economic and occupational conditions of different castes, and on the basis of the data collected on various criteria, revise the list of backward classes and identify them, and recommend to the government to formulate programs for their all-round development.

For this scientific survey, all the people of Karnataka state are requested to participate in the social and educational survey conducted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission, provide appropriate details, and cooperate to make this survey a success.

Sri Vijayananda S Kasappanavar
MLA, Hunagunda Assembly Constituency
and Chairman, Karnataka
Veerashaiva-Lingayat Development Corporation Limited


Zero GST
Gift of Security and Affordability
LIC Individual Policies are now exempt from GST,
Making them more accessible and affordable for all citizens,
Thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Government of India's Next-Gen GST reforms.
• GST rate changed from 18% to Zero...
• Contact your LIC Agent today and buy your LIC Policy.
• Our Plans are also available Online.
LIC/P1/2025-26/19/Eng
Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090
Say 'Hi'
Download LIC Mobile App
Visit: licindia.in
Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827
Follow us : LIC India Forever
IRDAI Regn No.: 512
LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies ,announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

BMTC nets Rs 17.45 lakh in fines

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) said it intensified checking on its buses to detect ticketless travellers and men occupying women's seats.

In July and August, BMTC staff checked 41,156 trips and penalised 7,077 ticketless passengers, collecting Rs 16.81 lakh. As many as 2,812 cases were also registered against conductors for dereliction of duty.

In addition, the BMTC's checking staff also penalised 642 male passengers for occupying seats reserved for women and fined them Rs 64,200. In all, the BMTC collected Rs 17.45 lakh in fines from passengers in July and August.

The corporation asked passengers to buy tickets/passes without fail and advised male travellers to allow women to occupy seats reserved for them.

208 vehicles booked for violations

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transport authorities have cracked down on non-transport vehicles being used by garment companies without paying taxes, passenger service vehicles operating illegally, and vehicles carrying excess loads.

On Tuesday, 11 teams led by Joint Commissioner for Transport (Bengaluru Urban) AM Shobha carried out a special drive in the Yelahanka and Devanahalli RTO limits. Officials inspected 650 vehicles, booked 208, and impounded 21.

ED files prosecution complaint in Rs 122-cr bank fraud case

Names 18 accused, including company directors

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate's Bengaluru Zonal Office has filed a prosecution complaint against 18 accused in a Rs 122-crore bank fraud case.

The complaint, equivalent to a police chargesheet, was filed on September 12 against M/s Associate Lumbers Private Limited (ALPL) and 17 others before the Special Court (PMLA), Bengaluru.

The ED began its probe based on a CBI, ACB, Bengaluru FIR against M/s ALPL, its directors and others under sections of the IPC, 1860, and Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 1988.

"The ED investigation revealed that the company M/s Associate Lumbers Pvt Ltd, represented by its directors viz, Mohamed Farouk Suleman Darvesh, Manoharlal Satramdas Agicha, Srichand Satramdas Agicha and Ebrahim Suleman Darvesh entered into criminal conspiracy by siphoning off the loan amount sanctioned by the Union Bank of India (erstwhile Corporation Bank) to either the sister concerns of M/s ALPL in the form of unsecured loans or to other firms for purchase of property in the name of M/s ALPL and M/s Touchwood Real Estate Private Ltd. etc., thereby causing loss to the Union Bank of India to the tune of Rs 56 crore (approx) as on date of NPA and total loss to the bank is Rs 122 crore (approx), including interest as on date of complaint filed by the bank," the agency said.

ED further alleged that M/s ALPL made numerous accommodative entries without any genuine business relationship with its sister concerns, inflating turnover to enhance its drawing power.

"Consequently, M/s ALPL obtained renewed credit facilities of Rs 60 crore from the complainant bank. Therefore, it is concluded that M/s ALPL and its sister concerns engaged in accommodative entries that facilitated the renewal of the credit facilities of M/s ALPL was based on inflated turnover and also facilitated the diversion of loan proceeds to sister concerns.

"Further, funds were also diverted for the purchase of immovable properties and the settlement of loans of sister concerns/OTS with banks on behalf of sister concerns and revenue from the sale of stocks was not routed through the loan account. Also, stock worth Rs 7 crore (approx) was disposed of by directors and claimed as washed away in Chennai floods. Further, funds have also been diverted to entities in Panama and Costa Rica, which are controlled by relatives of one of the directors of ALPL, as an advance payment for the import of timber. Through such criminal activities, accused persons generated and acquired POC in crores of rupees," ED alleged.

The ditch at a construction site on Gandhi Bazaar Main Road.

Car falls into 12-ft ditch; passengers escape with minor injuries

BENGALURU, DHNS

A car carrying four people fell into a 12-ft ditch on Gandhi Bazaar Main Road on Wednesday morning.

The Basavanagudi police confirmed that the car's passengers escaped with minor injuries.

The incident occurred around 11 am near Cosmos Cooperative Bank when a parking attempt close to a construction site went wrong.

"The construction site has a deep ditch, but despite that, there are no barricades to alert motorists and pedestrians about the danger ahead. Hence, four people travelling in a Maruti Esteem were hurt due to the negligence of the GBA engineers and property owners," said Guruprasad Rotti, secretary of the Heritage Basavanagudi Residential Welfare Forum.

A police official said that a joint effort by the police and local residents helped rescue the passengers and retrieve the car.

"Luckily, the passengers escaped with only minor injuries. We used metal chains for the rescue operations, and the entire process did not take long. As this was a self accident, no case was registered," he said.

Routine traffic check exposes ganja smuggling; 1 arrested

Car had 'ARMY' sticker on rear glass

BENGALURU, DHNS

A routine vehicle check by the traffic police uncovered a narcotics smuggling attempt, leading to one arrest and the seizure of 21.9 kg of ganja.

The arrested suspect was identified as Nayeem Ahmed from Chamarajnagar. His two associates managed to escape after abandoning their Maruti Suzuki Swift car, bearing the registration number KA19 ME5456.

On Tuesday, near Nayandahalli Junction, traffic police officials Raju and Mahesh noticed the suspects acting suspiciously. When they were stopped, two ran away while the driver was caught.

Inside the car, the police found two large gunny bags packed with sealed packets of ganja. The seizure also included Rs 2.8 lakh in cash, 88 grams of gold, five mobile phones and the car, which carried an 'ARMY' sticker on its rear glass.

"A case has been registered at the Girinagar police station. The driver is in our custody. Two others fled. Efforts are underway to trace them and establish the source and destination of the contraband," said Lokesh B Jagalasar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South).

MBBS seats: Teacher held over fake disability quota documents

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Malleswaram police on Wednesday arrested three people for aiding those who had used fake medical documents to gain government medical seats under the quota for the disabled.

The arrested suspects are Bharamppa, a teacher from Nandini Layout, Umesh Chaudhury, a first-grade assistant from Hosapete, and Sudhakar, who worked as an assistant at a primary healthcare centre in Mangaluru and is currently suspended.

Police sources said that investigators recovered the forged and fake documents and equipment used in creating them. The suspects were produced before a court on Wednesday and sent to police custody for 10 days.

The Malleswaram police began the probe after a recent FIR filed alleged that 21 candidates had submitted fake documents claiming hearing impairment.

UDID obtained

The probe also found that many had obtained the Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) from the Government General Hospital in Vijayanagar district.

The document verification revealed that they were fake, leading to the complaint by the authorities. Further investigation is underway.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

Hyderabad Vande Bharat won't run on Fridays from December 4

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kacheguda-Yeshwantpur-Kacheguda Vande Bharat Express (20703/20704) will not run on Fridays, starting December 4.

The train currently does not run on Wednesdays.

The timings, stoppages, frequency, and composition will remain the same.

Kerala train downgraded

The railways will downgrade the Ernakulam–KSR Bengaluru–Ernakulam Superfast Express (12678/12677) from the superfast category to the express category with revised train numbers, effective December 3.

Train number 12678 Ernakulam–Bengaluru Superfast Express will now run as 16378 Ernakulam–Bengaluru Express.

Similarly, train number 12677 KSR Bengaluru–Ernakulam Superfast Express will be renumbered to 16377 KSR Bengaluru–Ernakulam Express, according to the press release.

Special train from B'luru to Jog Falls

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate a special express train between Yeshwantpur and Talguppa (the nearest station to Jog Falls) to clear the extra rush of passengers during Dasara.

Train number 06587 will leave Yeshwantpur at 10.30 pm on September 19, 26 and October 3, and reach Talguppa at 4.15 am the following day. In the return direction, train number 06588 will depart from Talguppa at 10 am on September 20, 27 and October 4, and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 5.15 pm the same day.

The train will halt at Tumakuru, Tiptur, Arsikere, Birur, Tarikere, Bhadravati, Shivamogga Town, Anandapuram, and Sagara Jambagaru in both directions.

Three doctors suspended for accepting bribes

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Medical Education on Tuesday suspended three doctors for taking bribes to issue favourable inspection reports while serving on the National Medical Commission's inspection team.

The department said the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed an FIR in the bribery case and shared details through an official email.

Those suspended are Dr Chaitra MS, Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru; Dr Manjappa CN, Professor and Head, Department of Orthopaedics, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences; and Dr Ashok Shelke, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences.

The violation occurred in July during the inspection of the Sri Ravatpura Sarkar Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Chhattisgarh.

Based on the CBI's findings and confirmation of the violation, the department suspended the three doctors.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Karnataka State Federation of SC Right Communities: Seminar on understanding the conspiracy of the Justice (Retired) Nagamohan Das Commission's report on internal reservation for SCs; Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanthnagar; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Kannada Yuvajana Sangha: Lecture by Guruprasad on Kannada keyboard; Hombegowda Nagar; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	65%
Sunset (Sep 18)	6:20 pm
Sunrise (Sep 19)	6:09 am
Moonrise	2:03 am
Moonset	3:18 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of acquiring all that residential Villa Plot No.20, bearing Panchayat Khata No.9/20, Karahalli Village, Devanahalli Taluk and presently bearing E-Khata No.150300200600220054, Karahalli Grama Panchayat, Devanahalli Block, Devanahalli measuring about 9778 square feet in the project named "Prestige Golfshire" along with the Mansion standing thereon comprising of Ground, First and Second Floor together in all measuring about 8111 square feet, morefully set out in the schedule below and hereinafter referred to as **"Schedule Property"**, from its present owners Vallabhaneni Neelima and Dhananjaya Vallabhaneni, both residing at Villa No.82, Hill County, Bachupally, Hyderabad, Telangana -500090.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to such transaction in favour of our clients should write to the undersigned within **Fifteen Days** of the issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that residential Villa Plot No.20, bearing Panchayat Khata No.9/20, Karahalli Village, Devanahalli Taluk and presently bearing E-Khata No.150300200600220054, Karahalli Grama Panchayat, Devanahalli Block, Devanahalli measuring about 9778 square feet in the project named "Prestige Golfshire" formed in converted lands bearing Survey Nos.5, 6, 7, 16 to 19, 21, 27 to 34 of Kottige Thimmanhalli Village, Survey Nos.64 and 65 of Thylagere Village, Survey Nos.3, 7, 8,12 to 15, 17 to 23, 64, 65 and 77 of Sonnenahalli Village and Survey No.7 of Karahalli Amanikere Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore together in all measuring about 61 Acres 24.61 Guntas along with the Mansion standing thereon comprising of Ground, First and Second Floor together in all measuring about 8111 square feet and bounded on : East : Open towards Golf Course; West : Internal road; North: Mansion No.21; South : Mansion No.19;

Sd/- K. N. Geetha, Advocate
CMS Indus Law
No. 101, 1st Floor, Embassy Classic
11 Vittal Mallya Road,
Bengaluru-560 001 **Ph: 080-40726600**

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY

(Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India)

F.No. IFSCA-Admn./15/2022-GA **September 11, 2025**

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

International financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is a statutory regulatory body established by an Act of Parliament, to develop and regulate the financial services market in the International Financial Services Centres in India. GIFT IFSC in GIFT City, Gandhinagar. The Authority invites applications from eligible Indian citizens for the post of Grade A officers (Assistant Manager) on Direct Recruitment basis:

Stream	Number of Posts					Total Posts	Out of which PwBD*
	SC	ST	OBC	EWS*	UR/ GEN		
General	2	1	3	2	4	12	1* - Autism, ID, SLD, MI or Multiple Disabilities [Category (d) or (e)]
Legal	1	-	1	-	2	4	-
Information Technology (IT)	-	1	1	-	2	4	-
Total	3	2	5	2	8	20	

2. The candidates willing to apply for the above posts are requested to refer **https://www.ifsca.gov.in/Career** for detailed vacancy notification, corrigenda, service benefits and the eligibility criteria in terms of age, qualification etc., The last date for submission of on-line application is 25-09-2025.

General Manager
Department of General Administration

CBC 15228/12/0005/2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum 4 for E-Tender Notice No. Auto_Sig_CSDR-PKD Dated : 11.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Corrigendum 4, NIT	Rs. 139,40,69,610.88

Header Tender Existing Closing date and Time : 22/09/2025 11:00 Hrs is hereby modified as 30/09/2025 15:00 Hrs. for provision of Automatic Signalling between Channasandra - Penukonda Section of Bengaluru Division. (Details already uploaded in website).

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 30-09-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/476/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum 4 for E-Tender Notice No. Auto_Sig_YPR-ASK Dated : 08.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Corrigendum 4, NIT	Rs. 160,89,45,177.79

Header Tender Existing Closing date and Time : 15/09/2025 15:00 Hrs is hereby modified as 30/09/2025 11:00 Hrs for Provision of Automatic Signalling between Yesvantpur - Arsikere Section of Bengaluru and Mysuru Divisions. (Details already uploaded in website).

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 30-09-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/475/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender No. : e-Tender/GSU/2025/05, For and on behalf of President of India, the Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. **Tender No. E-KGP-GS-8-2025. Description of Work** : Santragachi : Provision of Shed on Elevated road, Ceiling, Facade light work, etc. **Tender Value :** ₹ 10,24,88,259.60. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 6,62,500/-. **Tender Document Cost :** ₹ 0. **Date of Opening:** 07.10.2025. **Completion Period of the work :** 12 months. **Bidding Start Date:** from 23.09.2025 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 07.10.2025. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **"www.ireps.gov.in"** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-635)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: L7255654A
Dated : 03-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.

Description in brief : Spare Power Pack, LUKAS power unit Model No P 630 SG suitable for High capacity HRD (Cold Cutting Equipments) supplied for various ART/ARMV/SPARMV of Hubballi Division. **(Tender No. L7255654A) (Qty : 07 Numbers)**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 23-09-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager/O Hubballi
PUB/473/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works. **Name of Work:** Strengthening weak side slope by construction of Toe Wall Murom Filling, Boulder pitching, preparing sub-bank dressing of Bank by 2:1 Slope for approaches of bridge no. 552/1, 552/2, 557/3, 557/4 & 557/5 (Total 1000x2=2000m) in Kulali-Wadi section. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 5,67,72,906.50. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 433900/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months. **Last Date & Time of Uploading Quoted Tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 07/10/2025 upto 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in** 07/10/2025 at 15.30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Tender Notice No. 25-2025-SrDENS
DRM (Works) Solapur

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है
Sai/SUR/57

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
CONTRACT OF MECHANIZED INTERNAL CLEANING

DRM(M)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of The President of India invites sealed tender from the reputed firms/contractors for the following work. **(1) Name of Work with its Locality :** The contract work of Mechanized internal cleaning of coaches of platform return/Terminal attention trains at Latur & Harangul station of Solapur Division for a period of three years on manpower basis through GeM. **(2) System of Tendering** : Two packet system. **(3) Approximate Cost of Work** : ₹1,11,97,199.36. **(4) Cost of the Tender Form :** Nil. **(5) Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased :** DRM(M)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur. **(6) Earnest Money to be Deposited :** ₹ 2,05,986/-. **(7) Completion Period of the Work :** Three years from the date of commencement of the work. **(8) Date and Time for Submission of Tender : 09/10/2025** at **10.00 hrs. (9) Date and Time of Opening of Tender : 09/10/2025** at **10.30 hrs. (10) Website Particulars & Notice Board Location where complete details of Tender can be seen : www.gem.gov.in/**

Sr. DME/Solapur
Tender Notice No. GEM/2025/B/6674957 dated 16/09/2025

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है
Sai/SUR/56

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರಾದ **M/s. A.J.R Layout** ಪಾಲುದಾರರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ಬಸವರಾಜು, ಎನ್. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್, ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಮೀನ ಎನ್., ಪಿ. ಶಿವಶಂಕರರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಕೇಶ್ ಜಿ., ನಂ.1987, 100 ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆಕ್ಸ್‌ಫರ್ಡ್ ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಯಡವನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾ॥, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ರವರು ಇಂಡ್ಲಬೆಲೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹೊಸ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 234 [ಹಳೇ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 173/P5) ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 1 ಎಕರೆ ಹತ್ತು ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಇದರ ಮಾಲೀಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್, ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್, ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ನಾಗರಾಜ್, ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಸುರೇಶ್ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ನರೇಂದ್ರಬಾಬು ರವರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಜ್ಞಾಪನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ PTCL(A) CR 9/2024-25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 8/9/2025 ರಂತೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪೂರ್ವಾನುಮತಿ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳೇನಾದರು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ನನ್ನ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ 15 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಜೆ. ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥರೆಡ್ಡಿ, ಬಿ.ಎ.ಎಲ್.,ಎಲ್.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ., ವಕೀಲರು, ಗೋಪಾಲರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಬಿಲ್ಡಿಂಗ್, ಮಂಚನಹಳ್ಳಿಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-mail: pdadvt@bmrc.co.in **Website:** www.bmrc.co.in **Ph:** 080-22969274, 22969280

Date: 16.09.2025

RFP NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director, BMRCL invites open e-tenders from eligible applicants, who fulfill the prescribed eligibility cum qualification criteria (EQC) for the following Outdoor Advertisements in BMRCL Network;

Sl. No.	Tender Name	RFP Notification	Bid Security	Date for submission of Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Bids
1	Request for Proposal for Grant of Concession to Design, Develop, Operate, and Maintain Advertisements on Selected Piers & Portals of Purple, Green, Yellow, Pink & Blue Corridors of the BMRCL Network.	BMRCL/PD/ ADVT/PIERS & PORTALS/ 2025-26/06 Dated: 17.09.2025	INR 1.30 crores	17.09.2025 to 23.10.2025	24.10.2025 at 17:30 Hrs

For more details, visit e-tendering portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **17.09.2025.** The Request for Proposal (RFP) document link will also be available in BMRCL website: **www.bmrc.co.in.**

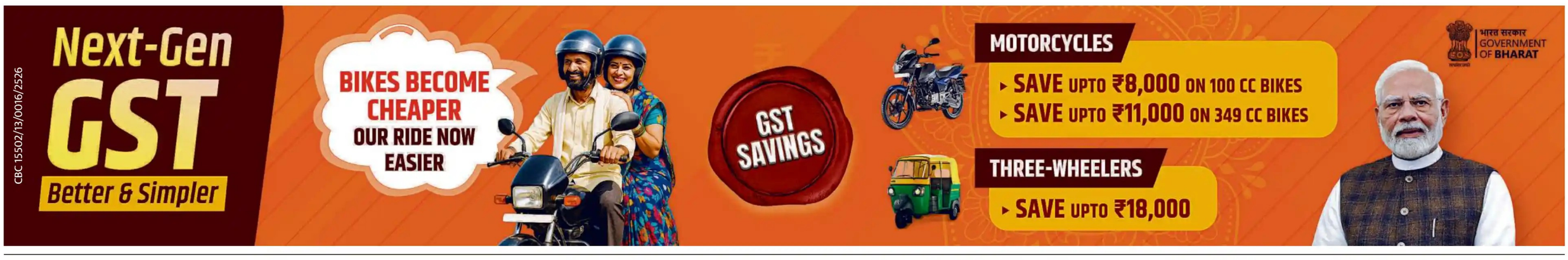
Sd/- Director (Finance)

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thank you Jesus for all the Blessings received.
- R. Chelladurai & Family

THANKSGIVING
Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in **Deccan Herald**
@2000/-
(Size 4cmx5cm)
For more Details Contact:
Ph: 080- 45557163/ 164
9845114560 | 9731810277



DITCHING B'LURU?: City's image suffers from crumbling infra, with a firm considering relocating

DyCM says potholes will be fixed by November

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday promised that all potholes in Bengaluru will be filled by November end.

The assurance, one of many in recent years, comes as the city's image suffers from crumbling infrastructure, with some companies even considering relocating.

"We have given an ultimatum to contractors and engineers to repair potholes by November. Our government is committed to providing a clean Bengaluru and also ensure smooth movement of vehicles," the deputy chief minister said in a social media post, putting the onus on the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

He said asphalting works covering 349 km across 182 roads are underway at an estimated cost of Rs 649 crore. "I have directed officials to complete this project quickly so that there are no potholes or instances of waterlogging," he added.

Shivakumar said that 178 roads, stretching 401 km, are under the defect liability period (DLP). "Contractors have been asked to maintain these roads and ensure there are no potholes."

Richmond Road, developed under the TenderSURE project, is riddled with potholes. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

DK SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"We have given an ultimatum to contractors and engineers to repair potholes by November. Our government is committed to providing a clean Bengaluru and also ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

Mixed responses

The post on X drew mixed responses.

Some users demanded accountability from engineers and officials if the work is delayed, while others questioned the longevity of such projects. A few even suggested the government provide a 50% rebate on property tax if deadlines are missed.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said that a strategy had been prepared in coordination with the traffic police.

"The police have given us a list of 1,500 potholes. We will also hold discussions with the five corporation commissioners in case there is any fund shortage. Road-restoration work related to the ongoing metro projects has also been taken up," he said.

Unlike the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which contracts road development and maintenance for longer periods, the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had a DLP clause of only one year, forcing engineers to re-enter the tendering process soon after roads were laid.

Outer Ring Road at breaking point?

Low road density, failed fixes and corporate frustration fuel calls for urgent action

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

A jammed stretch along the ORR. DH FILE PHOTO

Short-term measures are unlikely to fix the worsening traffic congestion along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), say urban mobility experts who analysed the situation on the 17-km stretch.

The tentative exit of trucking platform BlackBuck from the ORR, citing snarls and infrastructure issues, coupled with Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh's invitation to BlackBuck co-founder Rajesh Yabaji to move the firm to Visakhapatnam, has triggered debate among industry leaders and mobility experts.

V Ravichandar, civic evangelist and member of the Brand Bengaluru Committee, singled out low road density as the problem.

"The road density in Whitefield is 8 km/sqkm, on Sarjapur Road about 10 km/sqkm, while in Jayanagar it is 25 km/sqkm. This shows there is no road grid and hence, no alternative exit points for traffic, leading to multiple chokepoints. While there is no short-term fix; the hierarchy of arterial, sub-arterial, collector and local roads must be established to eliminate chokepoints in the long run," he said.

The lack of uniformity in road width adds to the ORR's poor condition, he added. "Traffic moves better when road width is uniform. But ORR and Sarjapur Road lack this. As a short-term fix, pothole-free roads and improved lane discipline is essential."

Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow with WRI India, urged tech parks to push employees towards public transport.

"Until Namma Metro's Blue Line becomes operational, we need measures that encourage more bus usage by improving services, making them frequent and most importantly, faster by reviving the bus priority lane. Tech companies should nudge employees towards buses and metro by understanding commute patterns and instituting policies such as incentivising public transport and charging for parking," he said.

Krishna Kumar Gowda, General Secretary of Greater Bengaluru IT Companies and Industries' Association, suggested staggered office hours and work-from-home days on high-congestion weekdays.

"Enhanced carpooling, with tech parks and member companies promoting or even mandating reduced single-occupancy car usage during peak hours, will help," he said, also urging the government to improve pedestrian access with upgraded footpaths and skywalks.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Bengaluru Traffic) Karthik Reddy and BlackBuck CEO Yabaji did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Despite Andhra's efforts, no company will leave Bengaluru: MB Patil

Industries Minister MB Patil said his team contacted BlackBuck CEO Rajesh Yabaji, who admitted he had not expected his post to gain such traction.

Patil told DH: "He (Yabaji) said that while he did have frustrations regarding the ORR, he was still weighing his options. Bengaluru, like any global city, faces such issues as it grows. But we are working on solutions with the tunnel road and upcoming metro line. Rest assured, no company or industry is leaving Bengaluru because of these issues, no matter how much Andhra Pradesh tries its luck."

AP's IT minister woos BlackBuck after co-founder's move-out post

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday invited online trucking platform BlackBuck to shift its operations to Visakhapatnam after the company's co-founder flagged "worsening infrastructure and commute issues" in Bengaluru.

BlackBuck Co-Founder and CEO Rajesh Yabaji, in a post on X on Tuesday, said the company had decided to vacate its office in Bellandur on Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR), citing poor commuting conditions and crumbling road infrastructure. "ORR (Bellandur) has been our 'office + home' for the last 9 years. But it's now very, very hard to continue here. We have decided to move out," Yabaji wrote.

He said average one-way commute time for employees had crossed 1.5 hours, worsened by pothole-ridden roads, dust and what he described as the government's "lowest intent to get them rectified". He added that he saw no change "in the next five years".

Responding to the post, Lokesh wrote on X: "Can I interest you in relocating your company to Vizag? We are rated among the top five cleanest cities in India, are building best-in-class infra, and have been rated the safest city for women. Please send me a DM."

It was not immediately clear whether Yabaji had responded to the invitation.

Civic works trapped in three-way web after BBMP's dissolution

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The dissolution of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has split the work it handled between the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), all five corporations, and Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE).

The corporations will handle only maintenance and minor redevelopment, while major infrastructure projects have been assigned to the GBA and B-SMILE.

A sum of Rs 1,100 crore — promised by the state government — will be allocated directly to the five corporations. As the grant was announced on requests from MLAs, they are expected to play a bigger role in road selection. Most of the works involve asphalting ward and internal roads, many of which were developed as recently as 2023-24.

In addition, Rs 150 crore earmarked for junction improvements will be redistributed to the five corporations, along with Rs 70 crore set aside for public toilets and mechanical sweeping machines. Much of the junction work is expected to fall under the Bengaluru City Central Corporation. Meanwhile, the civic body has dropped its Rs 50 crore ornamental lighting plan due to a shortage of funds.

Under the new arrangement, the GBA has retained several works.

Its Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will execute the World Bank–funded Rs 2,000-crore Water Security and Resilience Project, largely focused on stormwater drain improvements. The GBA will also oversee a Rs 238-crore project under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund and spend Rs 50 crore on upgrading digital infrastructure and IT systems.

Set up to handle large projects such as tunnel roads and 113 km of elevated corridors, B-SMILE has also been tasked with completing Rs 1,700 crore worth of ongoing white-topping works, funded partly by the government and partly through property tax. It will additionally construct Rs 300 crore worth of roads along rajakaluve buffer zones, and build a skywalk at Banashankari.

A senior government official said the redistribution was based on whether works were ongoing or new. "Projects nearing completion but spanning multiple corporations have been given to B-SMILE for quicker closure, while ward-level works were handed to the corporations to address issues locally," the official said.

Inspiration meets opportunity with Pre-GST savings on Kia.
Why wait till 22nd September?
Avail Pre-GST and additional festive benefits now.
Movement that inspires
Avail Pre-GST and additional festive benefits up to
₹ 2 10 000*

Exclusive Pre-GST benefits now make buying a Kia even more rewarding. Add in our ongoing festive offers, and the savings get even better. It's the perfect time to bring home the Kia you've always wanted.

Model	Pre-GST benefits (up to)	Additional festive benefits (up to)	Total benefits* (up to)
Seltos	₹ 58 000	₹ 1 52 000	₹ 2 10 000
Carens Clavis	₹ 53 650	₹ 35 000	₹ 88 650
Carens	₹ 43 500	₹ 67 000	₹ 1 10 500

*Benefits available on other Kia cars as per applicability.

For more information, visit our dealership or contact:
1800 108 5000 | 093195 91407 | www.kia.com | Book Kia | kiacare@kiaindia.net | Look for "Kia India" @

*Terms & condition apply. Pre- GST benefits and additional festive benefits are at the sole discretion of the dealership. The product shown is for representation purposes only. Benefits may vary from model to model & region to region. Actual features, colors, and specifications may not be part or standard fitment and may vary. Kia India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to make any changes with respect to the trims, colors, specifications, and other details of any model as mentioned or to modify/ discontinue any offer/scheme/service without prior notice. Kia urges you to follow traffic rules, these are meant to keep you safe on the roads. Visit your nearest Kia dealership for more details. Benefits applicable only in the state of Karnataka.

Bangalore: **JSP Kia:** Bellandur, Tel: 9071077717; Hosur Road, Tel: 9606011244; Sarjapur, Tel: 9513138856; **VST Kia:** Palace Cross, Tel: 9606988123, Yeshwanthpur, Tel: 9606988124 **Naara Kia:** JP Nagar, Tel: 7406528200, Kanakpura Road, Tel: 907010099; **Epitome Kia:** Whitefield, Tel: 9606970216, Yelahanka, Tel: 7406343339, Varthur, Tel: 9844240044, Avalahalli, Tel: 7022317666; **PPS Kia:** Mysore Road, Tel: 6309990010; **Taapasi Kia:** Kalyan Nagar, Tel: 8095537777; Koramangala, Tel: 9071177333; **Advaith Kia:** Lalbagh, Tel: 9611006006, Magadi Road, Tel: 6364871023, Banashankari, Tel: 6364871022, Basaweshwar Nagar, Tel: 6364871024; Tumkur: **PPS Kia:** Tel: 6303622210; Kolar: **Epitome Kia**: Tel: 8951903224

Members of HortiConnect announce the dates of the expo at an event in the city on Wednesday.

City to host first global horticulture exhibition

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru will host its first global horticulture exhibition and conference, HortiConnect India 2025, from September 25 to 27 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

The three-day expo, organised with the National Horticulture Board, South India Floriculture Association and Indian Greenhouse Manufacturer Association, carries the theme 'Connecting Indian Horticulture Globally'.

It is supported by the Karnataka government to connect Indian growers and agribusinesses with global markets and technologies.

The expo will feature 125 exhibitors, attract 10,000 participants, and host delegations from the Netherlands, the partner country, as well as Turkey, Spain, Israel and Sri Lanka.

With India's horticulture production projected at 362 million tonnes in 2025 and exports near USD 1.8 billion, HortiConnect arrives at a pivotal time.

Invites have gone out to all Karnataka farmers, while agricultural students will mediate at stalls to explain and translate in regional languages. Entry is free with registration on www.horticonnectindia.com.

Focus areas include women in horticulture, climate-smart farming, biodegradable materials, and carbon credit opportunities.

Revenue boost: BSWML moves to clear contractor payments

BENGALURU, DHNS: Flushed with funds, the Bangalore Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has issued notices to all contractors involved in door-to-door waste collection, directing them to submit bills for payment.

Officials said the move was aimed at addressing two concerns: first, ensuring that delays in payments are not cited as a reason for non-compliance, and verifying and curbing bogus entries in bills.

So far, garbage contractors across the city have faced delays of four to six months in receiving payments. For instance, the BSWML has only cleared bills for work completed up to March this year.

Earlier, the delays were attributed to a shortage of funds in the civic body and its complete dependence on property tax revenue. Now, however, the BSWML has a steady revenue stream through the collection of service charges for solid waste management.

For the first time, the BSWML has issued notices to all contractors, demanding submission of bills for April, May, June, July and August. This is also because the agency is expected to surpass its annual projection of Rs 750 crore by the end of this year.

Officials believe the current delays are largely due to contractors themselves, who may be unwilling to receive payments on time. They suspect bills include bogus entries, which contractors prefer not to have closely scrutinised during verification.

Contractors, however, blame the BSWML for frequent policy changes. "Until January this year, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was in place for compliance. Based on that, payments were made in March. Now, the SOP has been revised. We will comply with it," said Balasubramaniam, a contractor.

He added that contractors do not wish to strain relations with officials. "When BSWML insisted that auto-tippers be present at 5.30 am, we asked our workforce to comply, even though garbage collection can begin only after 7 am, when citizens are awake."

Education dept extends AI-powered initiative to over 1k schools

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to help children at government schools better grasp mathematical concepts and to enhance competency levels in English and Kannada, the Department of School Education and Literacy has signed an agreement with EkStep Foundation to impart lessons using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The initiative – Kalika Deepa – was announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the 2025 Budget.

The programme was implemented as a pilot project at three schools in Koppal and Tumakuru districts in the 2024-25 academic year.

Buoyed by the positive results that the initiative was met with at the three schools, the department has decided to extend it to 1,145 schools across the state this academic year. "There has been a noticeable improvement in English and Kannada reading skills, and in their Mathematical abilities," read the circular issued by the department.

As many as 1,44,062 students across the state are slated to benefit from the initiative, towards which the department has decided to disburse Rs 1.38 crore. The funds are to be used for internet services, the purchase of headphones, and for training resource personnel.

The programme will be implemented at schools that have computers. The Department of School Education and Literacy made it clear that EkStep Foundation was implementing the 'Kalika Deepa' programme free of cost.

Schools where the programme is being implemented will have to upload monthly reports on the New Decision Supportive System portal, providing details of how the funds earmarked for Kalika Deepa have been utilised. Schools must also submit a progress report on the initiative once every three months.

Cut down on contract staff, give report on finances: Dept to varsities

Unable to pay even pensions, they had sought funds

BENGALURU, DHNS

The department of higher education has sought details of bank accounts, including fixed deposits and corpus funds, from some of the state-run universities, including Bangalore and Mangalore varsities.

This comes as a response to the universities' request for financial assistance to pay pensions of retired employees, as most of the universities are struggling to manage their finances.

Recently, the University of Gulbarga, Bangalore University, Mangalore University and Karnataka University, Dharwad, had approached the department of higher education, seeking funds to settle retirement benefits of the staff, which is pending for more than two years.

The department has also asked the universities to submit details on the availability of finances and also asked them to relieve staff hired on a temporary/contract basis and submit a report on the same.

"Some universities have hired more staff than the number of posts sanctioned. It is advised to relieve excess staff from the universities, control the administrative expenses and submit a report on the same," reads the communication from the department to the universities.

The department has asked the universities to submit a proposal seeking funds after rectifying the issues raised by it.

"The proposal submitted by the universities should be justifiable," the communication said.

Fee hikes planned

Following the response from the department, the universities have decided to increase the examination, affiliation and admission fees for some of the courses.

The pathetic financial condition of the universities is also highlighted in the recent study report on state-run universities prepared by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

As mentioned in the report, at least 13 public universities are in need of Rs 562 crore during the 2025-26 academic year, just to pay retirement benefits of the staff. As much as 30% of the available funds is provided by the government.

Former chief ministers B S Yediyurappa and D V Sadananda Gowda join BJP workers in sweeping a park to mark the service fortnight commemorating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

BJP marks PM's birthday with service activities, photo expo

BENGALURU, DHNS: To commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, BJP leaders and workers across Bengaluru organised a series of service-driven initiatives on Wednesday, aligning with the PM's governance philosophy centred on public service and people-centric leadership.

A photo exhibition chronicling PM Modi's life and journey was held in the Jayanagar Assembly constituency. The exhibition was inaugurated by Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and former deputy CM and MP Govind Karjol.

It saw the participation of senior BJP leaders, including MLA C K Ramamurthy, party's state media convener Karunakar Hasale and former Bengaluru Mayor S K Nataraj.

Also, a blood donation camp was organised in the same constituency and was inaugurated by N Ravikumar, chief whip of the Opposition in the Legislative Council.

As part of the ongoing Seva Pakhwada (service fortnight) campaign, former chief minister B S Yediyurappa felicitated 75 civic workers at a ceremony held at his residence, recognising their contributions to the city.

Other prominent leaders including D V Sadananda Gowda, Katta Subramanya Naidu and S Harish participated.

ASHA workers to create awareness on caste census

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government on Wednesday ordered ASHA workers to participate in raising awareness about the social and educational survey carried out by the Social Welfare Department.

The survey is scheduled to be conducted from September 22 to October 7.

ASHA workers have been instructed to raise awareness in about 90% of the houses in their areas. They will have to visit each house, note it on the Jagriti Abhiyana app and collect the UHID number along with phone number.

The workers will be given an honorarium of Rs 2,000. They have already distributed questionnaire forms to households to make it easier for participants and officials.

'Plans afoot to relocate Bangalore race course to Kunigal stud farm'

KUNIGAL (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS

A long-standing proposal to shift the Bangalore race course to Kunigal stud farm has gained currency again. Animal Husbandry Minister Venkatesh said on Wednesday that the state government is seriously considering the proposal to shift the race course to the stud farm in Kunigal.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to the stud farm here, Venkatesh said, "The Poonawalla Stud Farms company had bagged the global tender to manage the 421.32 acre farm. But the tender was cancelled due to some technical reasons. The government has not made any decision on the stud farm. But the chief minister is seriously considering relocating the race course located in the heart of Bengaluru to Kunigal stud farm.

Last year, the Bangalore Turf Club representatives inspected the stud farm. However the process to shift the race course is yet to begin. A decision in this regard will be made soon," the minister said.

"The state government is planning to take up development works at the stud farm while maintaining its heritage status. The ministers concerned will soon visit the stud farm and an appropriate decision will be made in the coming days," Kunigal MLA Ranganath told reporters.

Animal Husbandry Minister Venkatesh looks at a thoroughbred during his visit to Kunigal stud farm on Wednesday. Kunigal MLA Dr Ranganath is also seen. DH PHOTO

Cash seizure during LS polls: HC quashes case against Sudhakar

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a relief to Dr K Sudhakar, BJP MP from Chikkaballapur constituency, the Karnataka high court has quashed proceedings against him in relation to the case registered pursuant to seizure of Rs 4.8 crore by officials on Election duty.

Justice M I Arun has allowed the petition filed by Sudhakar observing that the charges pressed in the charge sheet are not made out against the petitioner. A detailed order is yet to be uploaded.

The petitioner challenged the crime registered on April 25, 2024, at Madanayakanahalli police station in Bengaluru Rural district and subsequent charge sheet and proceedings before the special court for cases involving MPs/MLAs. As per the complaint, filed by Dasharatha V Kumbar of the Static Surveillance Team (SST), a tip off was received on the previous day of the Lok Sabha elections stating that Rs 10 crore cash was stored at a house meant to be distributed to the voters.

On searching the house belonging to one Govindappa, the team seized Rs 4.8 crore cash. It was further stated in the complaint that Sudhakar later sent messages as well as made calls on WhatsApp to election officer Munish Moudgil to help him in the matter.

The jurisdictional police investigated the case and filed a charge sheet before the JMFC court at Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural district, for offences punishable under IPC sections 171E, 171F, 171B and 171C and also under section 12 of the Representation of People's Act. The offences were related to bribery and inducement of voters. Subsequently, the special court for MPs/MLAs took cognizance of the case for offences punishable under IPC sections 171 E, 171 F and 511.

Challenging the proceedings, Sudhakar argued that the complaint itself does not establish the charges of bribery and inducement and that he has been falsely implicated in the case.

According to Sudhakar, mere recovery of cash at the home of an individual residing in a constituency also does not automatically imply that the cash belonged to the candidate or that it was being used for illicit electoral gains. In regard to the calls, it was submitted that relying solely on anonymous call/message identifying it to be the petitioner lacks necessary weight to implicate him.

BJP to hold two-day training for state leaders in B'luru from today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP state unit is set to organise a two-day 'Abhyasa Varga' (training camp) from September 18.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening organisational unity, sharpening political strategy and preparing party leaders for future challenges, including the 2028 Assembly elections.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Legislative Council N Ravikumar told reporters here on Wednesday that Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan would inaugurate the camp.

"The sessions will be presided over by Dr Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, BJP's general secretary incharge of Karnataka. B L Santhosh, the party's national general secretary (organisation), will also be present," Ravikumar said.

He described the camp as a platform for "introspection and capacity building".

The party has extended invitations to key leaders from all districts, including sitting MLAs, MLCs, former legislators and other elected representatives.

The camp comes at a time when the BJP is grappling with a sensitive issue.

The All India Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha recently urged members of the Lingayat community to list themselves as belonging to 'Veerashaiva-Lingayat religion'—rather than as Hindus—in the caste census.

This move has placed the BJP in a difficult position. Senior leaders would brief participants on how to counter the narratives of political rivals, especially Congress.

The BJP conducts similar camps across India as part of efforts to maintain organisational discipline, reinforce ideological consistency and align its grassroots leadership with the party's national vision.

Party sources hinted that the issue of appointing a new state BJP president or formalising the incumbent may also come up for discussion.

Farmers oppose Jindal's proposed steel plant during public hearing

KUDITHINI (BALLARI DISTRICT), DHNS: A group of land losers and farmer leaders on Wednesday opposed the proposed Cold Rolled Grain Oriented Steel plant of Jindal company at the KIADB's industrial area near Kudithini, during a public hearing meeting.

The land was initially acquired for a steel plant to be set up by the steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal. The KIADB developed a portion of the land and allotted the same to Jindal company.

Sternly opposing the KIADB's move, the farmers demanded the board to return their land if it is not used for the purpose it was acquired. They demanded an enhanced compensation if their land was not returned.

The protesters tried to prevent the authorities from holding the hearing. Meanwhile, Bellary MP E Tukaram tried to pacify the farmers. He lost his cool and told the protesters to pour out their grievances to Janardhan Reddy, who created this situation.

'EC to be ready for SIR in Karnataka by Sept 25'

SIR, from Page 1

During the exercise, all proceedings on forms 6 (first time voters), 7 (objections) and 8 (correction) will be frozen.

The poll panel is said to have conducted discussions with political parties and sought their cooperation throughout the exercise.

If the software/ system detects any potential voter duplication -- possible in cases where the system may indicate more than 65% similarity in photo identification, name, address and other details between two different voters -- the respective officers will be asked to verify the details again. For those born before July 1, 1987, one of the 11 documents prescribed by the EC (passport, birth certificate, SSLC certificate, caste certificate, family register and so on) and Aadhar can be considered. For those born after the above date, documents of one of the parents have to be produced, along with their own document. For those born after December 2, 2004, documents of both parents have to be produced along with their own document.

While Aadhaar will be accepted as a proof of identity, it cannot be a proof of citizenship, as per the Supreme Court's ruling. The BLO will take back one copy of the enrolment form while the citizen will keep the other copy, with an acknowledgment by the BLO. Citizens can also enumerate through online means and upload the enumeration forms through BLO App/ECI Net.

EC sources said the principle behind the exercise is that "no eligible voter is left out, while no ineligible voter is included". However, there are concerns that many genuine citizens, especially senior citizens, may not have the required documents. In such cases, the issue will go before the ERO. The final authority to decide on who should be included in the list will lie with the District Electoral Officer.

Overall, there are 58,000 BLOs in Karnataka. They include anganawadi workers, school teachers and central government employees.

The sources said the honorarium for the BLOs has been increased from Rs 6,000 to Rs 12,000. During SIR, it will be Rs 18,000.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

R. UMA RANI
Inserted by: T. Ajay Kumar
Mobile No. 8618917077

1934 - 2025
B S SATYAVATI
W/o Late B V Ramaseshan
You will always be in our minds and hearts.
Sorrowing family members
Ph: 7996806555 | 9740512223

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

PUBLIC NOTICE

OUTREACH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BENGALURU
TENDER NOTIFICATION
For the GIZ India supported project 'Promotion of ELS cotton in Karnataka state, sealed tenders are invited under two bid tender system (Technical and Financial) from eligible suppliers for the supply of
I) Griege/ Grey fabric cotton bags for picking, Quantity: 11,600; Size 50 cm (L) x 60 cm (W),
II) Griege/ Grey fabric cotton bags for collection and transportation of cotton, Quantity: 11,600; Size 120cm (L) x 90 cm (W) and
III) Griege/ Grey fabric cotton head caps, Quantity: 23,200;Size 30cm (L) x 17 cm (W).
For detailed tender notification, eligibility criteria, and submission guidelines, please visit:
www.outreachindia.org
Last date for submission: 08-10-2025
Executive Director
Contact No.: 94490 77530

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Kempegowda Layout

NADA PRABHU
Kempegowda layout
BDA Site For Sale
30x40, 40x60, 50x80
Contact: 7676900174
6363496142

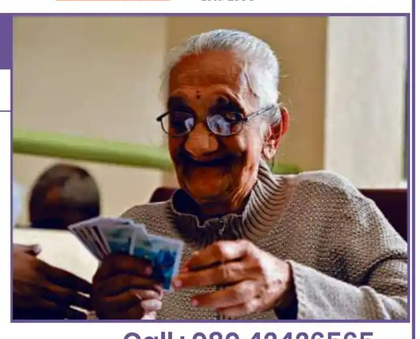
Commerical

Whitefield

3210SFT,& 1200Sft, Commercial Sites For Sale Near Varthur Sub-Register Office,Within BBMP Limits With 'E'Khatha Call:9353532040

CONNECT Classifieds

SMRITHI 2025
MEMORY WELLNESS DRIVE
WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY SPECIAL
NMT ELDERCARE Nightingales Medical Trust Estd 1998
GIFT YOUR ELDERLY PARENTS
THE CARE THEY DESERVE
Join us for SMRITHI 2025
Memory Wellness Drive, a FREE Brain Health & Memory Wellness Screening event!
Benefits for Your Loved Ones:
- Free brain health and memory screening
- Personalized brain health report
- Expert guidance from doctors and counselors
- Tips for healthy aging and independence
- Engaging brain games and activities



Call : 080 42426565
Scan
Date: Sat, 20th Sep 2025 | Time: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Venue: Krishna Rao Park, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru
Early Check = Longer, Healthier, Happier Life
Organized by Nightingales Medical Trust in collaboration with DIA and ARDSI

House

Mysore

LUXURY 5 BHK House For Sale on Commercial Chamundi Hill Main Road,Prime Location.60x80 North Facing Plot, 80 feet Road. Contact: 9035035399

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Business

PROPERTY COLLATERALS/ Joint Developments/ Take overs) R/E Buying Selling School/ Colleges/ Hospitals. Hot Drinks Factory (GOA). Dr. Swamy, Vamshadhara Projects/ Services-93422247637.

PROPERTY COLLATERALS/ JD's/ Take Overs/ Finance for big Projects, Problem solving. Dr.Swamy Naidu-Vamshadhara Projects And Services. 9342247637.

Business Offers

Finance

AVAIL MSME LOANS EASILY Business Owners can now Avail MSME Loans Upto 1 crore against GST/UDYAM Certificates UNSECURED LOANS Available for both Existing Businesses& Startups Contact-7204995189

INVESTOR REQUIRED in Crores for Health Industry Profit 5% to 30% Serious Persons only Contact - 9035398249

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I,MANUCHA MARY EMMANUEL residing`at Sarala_Birla Academy_BH-3, Jigani`Road, Anekal, Bannerghatta Bengaluru-560083 have`changed my`name`to MALUCHA_GALSTAUN vide`affidavit dtd:07.09.2025 sworn`before Notary`K.V.Mani, Bengaluru

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, DEVAL JITENDRAKUMAR CHUNILAL, residing at Jada Kheriya, Limkheda, Limkheda Dahod, Gujarat - 389140, have changed my minor daughter's name from DEVAL NIRALEBEN to DEVAL NIRALIBEN vide affidavit dated 17.09.2025 before notary N. Narayanaswamy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAJESHWARI HATTI & PADMALATA KOTRASHETTAR D/o Chandrashekharappa, residing at No.20, Nagesh Sapota Layout, Harohalli Post, Harohalli Village, Bangalore South District - 562112, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as PADMALATA KOTRASHETTAR vide affidavit 11.09.2025 before notary Kantharaju S, Ramanagara.

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Domnicque Paul H, residing at No.1334, 6th Cross, 11th Main, HAL 3rd Stage, Kodihalli, Bangalore- 560008 have lost my Original Marginal Land Allotment Letter, Document No./ Identification: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬೆಂಅಪಾಃ ಉಕಾ-1/ಹೆಚ್.ಎಎಲ್/1334/2011-12. While transit. If found please contact: 9880657624

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

Chikkodi district to be formed by Dec 31, says Hebbalkar

CHIKKODI, DHNS: Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar on Wednesday promised that the government would bifurcate Belagavi district and create a new Chikkodi district before December 31.

Members of the Chikkodi Zilla Horata Samiti met Hebbalkar in the city and submitted a representation in support of their demand.

Hebbalkar said it was essential to bifurcate Belagavi district to ensure that the benefits of schemes reach the people without fail. She said the government had already decided to bifurcate Belagavi and she herself supported the move.

The Samiti members also submitted representations to MLC Channaraj Hattiholi and former MLC Mahantesh Kavatgimath.

Samiti president S Y Hanji, secretary Rudrappa Sangappagol, Sanjay Patil and others were present

Sites 'scam': ED arrests former MUDA commissioner

Central agency raids his properties in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested former Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) commissioner GT Dinesh Kumar on charges of money laundering, agency sources said on Wednesday.

The arrest came after ED officials conducted searches at two residential properties in Bengaluru belonging to Kumar and questioned him.

The searches were held under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 In connection with the alleged scam in the allocation of MUDA sites.

Kumar has been remanded in ED custody for nine days.

The sources, however, said Kumar's arrest wasn't directly linked to the alleged MUDA scam involving CM Siddaramaiah and his wife, BM Parvathi, but was focused on the overall illegal allotments.

According to the sources, Kumar, during his tenure as MUDA commissioner (2022-2024), allegedly indulged in large-scale illegal allotment of MUDA sites in lieu of gratification and pecuniary benefits. "The investigation till now has revealed his active involvement in money laundering activities. Further probe is on," they said.

In June 2025, the ED had attached 92 properties worth an estimated Rs 100 crore in connection with the MUDA 'scam'. At the time, the agency said its investigation revealed large-scale illegalities in the allotment of sites by violating various statutes and government orders/guidelines and by other fraudulent means.

Dinesh Kumar

"The role of ex-MUDA commissioners, including Dinesh Kumar, has emerged as instrumental in the illegal allotment of compensation sites to ineligible entities/individuals. The evidence with respect to obtaining bribes for making illegal allotments in the form of cash, bank transfer, movable/immovable properties has been gathered during probe," it had alleged.

The ED had also alleged that the sale profits were routed to Kumar through "loans/advances to his relatives and associates". "Some of the sites were transferred to relatives/associates of Dinesh Kumar and other influential persons."

The central agency initiated an investigation against Kumar based on the FIR registered by the Lokayukta Police in Mysuru last year under various sections of the IPC, 1860 and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, against the CM, his wife and others.

The ED, in its provisional attachment order dated January 17, 2025, had alleged that there was a "deep-rooted nexus" involving MUDA officers, real estate businessmen and influential persons and that a large number of illegal allotments were made by MUDA officers against cash, immovable properties, vehicles, etc.

Apart from Siddaramaiah's wife, the ED had named Abdul Wahid (41 sites), M Ravikumar and others (31), Cathedral Parish Society (40) and members of Chamundeshwari Nagara Sarvodaya Sangha (48) for "illegally" receiving major allotments of 1,095 sites.

The High Court had quashed the ED proceedings against Parvathi in this case.

"The modus operandi was to make illegal allotments to ineligible persons who were front or dummy. These sites were subsequently projected as untainted, i.e., having been obtained as compensation for land acquired by MUDA. ... Further, these illegally allotted sites are being sold to obfuscate their true origin, i.e., proceeds of crime, and to frustrate proceedings under the PMLA, 2002. The resultant sale consideration obtained is being projected as untainted income from real estate business," the ED alleged.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other leaders pose in front of a statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel after garlanding it, on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of Kalyana Karnataka's liberation from Nizam rule, in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Regional imbalance redressal after panel gives report: CM

Siddu inspects tur crop damaged due to heavy rains

KALABURAGI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has promised that necessary action will be taken after a new committee headed by Prof Govind Rao submits a report on redressal of regional imbalances.

Speaking after unfurling the national flag to mark the 77th Kalyana Karnataka liberation day from Nizam rule here on Wednesday, he said that the committee would study the improvements in backward taluks and recommend further measures to eliminate regional imbalances.

He said that the crop damage survey had been delayed due to continuous rainfall.

The joint survey was being conducted by the revenue, agriculture horticulture departments. Insurance companies would distribute compensation after estimating the crop loss, he added.

Accusing the Centre of failing to respond to the state's plea to revise the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms for distribution of compensation for crop loss due to natural calamities, Siddaramaiah said that a decision on providing compensation to farmers would be taken once officials submit a final report after the joint survey on crop damage caused by heavy rainfall.

Responding to a question on waiver of farmers' loans, the CM said that he would look into it.

The chief minister also conducted inspection of damaged tur crop grown by farmer Channabasappa Sajjan near Farhatabad village, due to stagnation of rainwater.

Deputy commissioner Fauzia Tarannum showed to the CM a drone image of the damaged crops in the district.

As per the agriculture department's preliminary report, there is crop loss in more than 1 lakh hectares out of the total 9 lakh hectares under cultivation.

'Will press Centre for ST tag to Kurubas again'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the state would send a recommendation to the Centre again along with additional data and documents to include Kuruba community in the Scheduled Tribes' category.

Addressing the gathering at an event to unveil the statue of freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna here, he said that the Centre had earlier returned the proposal in this regard.

At present, Kurubas come under Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. They are seen as a dominant OBC after Lingayats and Vokkaligas. If Kurubas come under ST list, they can get higher political representation alongside a bigger share in quota pie. Karnataka has already hiked ST quota from 3% to 7%.

Will retire from politics if my election is overturned: Nanjegowda

KOLAR, DHNS: Following the High Court ordering a recount of votes in Malur constituency, Congress MLA K Y Nanjegowda said that he would retire from politics should the exercise result in the overturning of his victory.

"If the recount overturns my victory and my opponent from BJP K S Manjunath Gowda is declared winner, I will retire from politics," he told reporters on Tuesday.

Not only has the court ordered a recount, but has also rendered his position in the Assembly void, said Nanjegowda. "This is why I have moved the Supreme Court. Had the court merely ordered a recount, I would not have taken this step. The court could have ordered a re-election instead of asking for recount," he said.

On Manjunath Gowda's charges of vote theft, he said, "I admit that I was MLA then. But BJP was in power during the elections. I was at home watching TV on result day."

'Govt indiscriminately cancelling ration cards'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of Opposition (LoP) R Ashoka on Wednesday claimed that the Congress government was planning to indiscriminately cancel ration cards, a move that could plunge lakhs in distress.

R Ashoka

Ashoka, who attended a photography exhibition depicting the life of PM Modi here, said, "The government is planning to cancel 25 lakh ration cards although the official tally of invalid cards is only 13 lakh. This can deprive lakhs of poor families of essential benefits."

Accusing the government of misusing public funds to conduct a fresh caste survey, he said, "The Congress is dividing communities to garner political mileage. The survey should not be conducted during festive season."

Accusing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of fuelling inter-caste conflicts, Ashoka said, "What the CM is doing runs contrary to the teachings of reformers like Kanakadasa."

The LoP warned that attempts to revive the Veerashaiva-Lingayat debate could potentially lead to Congress party's downfall.

Lashing out at the government for failing to fix Bengaluru's pothole-riddled roads, Ashoka said, "But the government is going ahead with the tunnel-road project. Even BMTC buses are finding it hard to negotiate the roads. Several IT companies are planning to move to Hyderabad and Chennai, which will adversely impact state's economic growth."

The LoP further claimed that the state did not have enough funds to compensate farmers for the crops they had lost.

"Grants are being distributed unfairly. We need constituency-wise assessment to ensure equitable development across the state," said Ashoka.

The arrest of the former commissioner of Mysuru Urban Development Authority by the Enforcement Directorate was a good development, said Ashoka. "All the lost funds must be recovered, and all the culprits must be brought to justice," he added.

HC gets 4th hoax bomb threat since June

BENGALURU, DHNS: For the fourth time since June this year, the High Court received an email warning of explosives on its premises. All threats, including the current one, were declared a hoax by the police following searches.

The latest threat was made on September 15. On the day, the email ID of the registrar general received an email from kanimozhi_thevidiya@hotmail.com. 3RDX IEDs In High Court Premises, Evacuate Judges Soon (sic)," the email read as per the FIR seen by *DH*. After searches, the threat was declared a hoax, and an FIR was registered the same day at the Vidhana Soudha police station.

Regional imbalance panel likely to give report by Nov

'Committee visited all 31 districts, data analysis is underway'

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The M Govinda Rao Committee studying regional imbalances in Karnataka is in the final leg of its exercise and is expected to submit its report by November.

The Prof Rao Committee was formed by the state government last year to study and redress regional imbalances in the state.

Speaking in Kalaburagi on Wednesday during the Kalyana Karnataka Utsava celebrations, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah explained that once the Prof Rao committee submits its report, its pros and cons will be studied and suitable measures will be taken.

R VISHAL
Member-secretary, Govind Rao Committee

"Extensive feedback has been collected, and we have consulted multiple people both inside and outside the government. We have gone through a lot of data and conducted a lot of primary and secondary research.

Statistical analysis

Speaking to *DH*, Prof Rao said: "We have completed our visits to all the districts (31 districts). We are conducting statistical analysis. We have time till November, and we will submit the report sometime in November."

The committee is said to have consulted multiple stakeholders, conducted field visits and collected a lot of data.

"Extensive feedback has been collected, and we have consulted multiple people both inside and outside the government. We have gone through a lot of data and conducted a lot of primary and secondary research," the committee's member-secretary R Vishal told *DH*.

The Rao committee is the successor of the D M Nanjundappa Committee, which submitted its report in 2002 on regional imbalances in the state.

Taluk as basic unit

The Nanjundappa Committee report had considered taluks as the basic units, and had identified 114 backward taluks (39 most backward, 40 more backward and 35 backward taluks).

As the sub-level data sets are available only at the taluk level, and also due to the high importance of data in such economic reports, the Rao committee is likely to continue with taluk as the unit.

Over the years, successive governments have spent around Rs 30,000 crore based on the Nanjundappa committee report to redress regional imbalances in the state.

The Rao committee has been asked to study the improvements in backward taluks after the implementation of the Nanjundappa Committee report.

Of the four revenue divisions in Karnataka, the Kalaburagi division has traditionally been the most backward, followed by the Belagavi division, Mysuru division and Bengaluru division in that order.

Of the 39 most backward taluks in the Nanjundappa report, 26 were from Kalaburagi and Belagavi divisions (north Karnataka).

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/107/2024-ADMN/E-151865 Date: 17.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

Short term Re-Tenders have been invited on 17.09.2025 for **Supply of Dining Tables to Bangalore Division Residential Schools functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Karnataka,** through e-Portal vide Indent No. **KREIS/2025-26/IND0082/CALL-2** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **01.10.2025.** The details may be viewed in the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin)
and Tender Inviting Authority, KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/2853/2025-26

VISVESVARAYA TRADE PROMOTION CENTRE
(Govt. of Karnataka Organization for Export Promotion)
VTPC Building, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru-560001
Ph: 080-22860644 / 9483534444, Email : vtpckarnataka@gmail.com

No.: VTPC/AD/IITF-2025/2025-26 Date: 17.09.2025

Invitation of short-term e-Tender for construction of "Karnataka Pavilion" in IITF-2025 at Bharath Mandapam, New Delhi

Short term E-Tender is invited from eligible firms for construction of **"Karnataka Pavilion"** in the India International Trade Fair (IITF)-2025 scheduled to be held from **14.11.2025** to **27.11.2025** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Detailed tender document can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.** Last date for submission of tender is **30.09.2025 at 5.30 P.M.**

Sd/- Director (Exports) & Managing Director

ARMY INSTITUTE OF FASHION AND DESIGN
(A Unit of Army Welfare Education Society)
Nagareshwara Nagenahalli, PO-Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077. **Tele : 8792669001**
E-Mail : **aifd@awesindia.edu.in** Web : **www.aifd.edu.in** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Army Institute of Fashion and Design (AIFD), Bangalore is a unit of Army Welfare Education Society Campus, Bangalore. Bio Data/Resume are invited for the following vacancy.

POST - ACCOUNTS CLERK VACANCY - ONE	For method to apply, Qualification and Salary, Please refer to our website. **www.aifd.edu.in** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in** Last date : **30th September, 2025**
POST - LOWER DIVISION CLERK (LDC) VACANCY - ONE	
POST - ASSISTANT WARDEN FOR GIRLS HOSTEL VACANCY - ONE	

Sd/- Registrar and HoA

PUBLIC NOTICE

In line with the Government of India's recent reforms on Goods and Services Tax (GST) effective from 22nd September 2025, Page Industries Limited (PAGE) affirms its full support and commitment to this progressive initiative.

As a responsible corporate entity, PAGE is ensuring that the benefits of the revised GST rates are passed on to consumers through reduced prices across applicable product categories in PAGE's licensed brands.

PAGE also urges all its retail and distribution partners to extend the same benefit transparently to the end consumers, in the true spirit of this reform.

This step reflects PAGE's shared commitment towards building a fair, transparent and consumer-friendly marketplace while contributing to the nation's growth agenda.

Date: 17/09/2025
Place: Bengaluru

Chief Executive Officer,
PAGE INDUSTRIES LIMITED

PAGE INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Corporate & Registered Office: 7th Floor, Umiya Business Bay-Tower-1, Cessna Business Park, Varthur Hobli, Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru - 560 103.
Ph: 91-80-4945 4545 | Fax: 91-80-4946 570 | www.jockey.in
info@jockeyindia.com | CIN # L18101KA1994PLC016554

DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 Division
No. 14, Reshme Bhavan, Okalipuram
Bangalore-560021

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಅ/ರೇಣಿ/ಮೈ.ಮಾ.ಡಿ.ಪಿ.ಆರ್./140/2025–26 Date : 17.09.2025

Short Term Tender Notification No. 03/2025-26

Short Term Tender invited from qualified consultant for the Service through KPP portal as per standard bid document. The eligible consultant can participate in this tender through Indent No: **SD/2025-26/SE0236** Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **Date:19-09-2025 @ 11.30 A.M** in Executive Engineer, No.1 Division, DOS, Bengaluru. Last date for submission of tenders **Date: 24-09-2025 up to 16.00 hours.** Date of opening of technical bid **Date: 25-09-2025 at 16.30.05 hours.** Date of opening of Finical bid **Date: 29-09-2025 at 11.30 hours** (if possible). Tender processing fees & EMD as per KPP Portal. Estimate Cost Rs. **145.50 lakhs.** For more information contact the above office during office hours. **Note:** Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
No.1 Division, DOS, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2858/SA/2025-26

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com, Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.C.B./R.D./Rev./Swimming Pool/E-Pro-01/2025-26
Date : 16-09-2025

E-Procurement Auction Notification

E-Auction for **Operation, Maintenance and Supervision of Swimming Pool at Goaves, Belagavi** is called by **Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi** through E-Procurement as below.

1) Name of Work : Auction for Operation, Maintenance and Supervision of Swimming Pool at Goaves, Belagavi. Auction No. : DMA/2025-26/AUCTION/4366, Minimum E-Auction Bid Amount Rs. : 3,67,736/--, E.M.D. Amount Rs. : 9,193/-, Tender Period : 05 Years.

1) Last Date and Time for Submit the Query Date : 26-09-2025 at 5.00 p.m., 2) Date and Time to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction Date : 03-10-2025 at 5.00 p.m., 3) Start Date and Time of Evaluation : 06-10-2025 at 11.00 a.m., 4) Auction Start Date and Time Date : 10-10-2025 11.00 Am to 4.00 p.m.

For notification Date and Other Details to be Obtained by visiting **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for participation in E-auction.

Sd/- **Dy Commissioner (Rev), City Corporation Belagavi.**	**Sd/-** **Chief Account Officer, City Corporation Belagavi.**	**Sd/-** **Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.**

DIPR/Belagavi/1039/Manipal/2025-26

City Municipal Corporation Bidar

No: BMC/ENG/CR-270/2025-26 Dated:-17-09-2025

TENDER NOTIFCATION

1.	Name of work	(DMA/2025-26/SE6225):-Appointment of Transaction Advisor for Implementation of Energy Efficiency Project for streetlights by replacement of existing conventional lamps with LED lamps along with Centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) in Bidar City Corporation Bidar District in Karnataka State
2.	Estimated cost	As per e-portal
3.	Eligibility of Agency/ Consultant	As per e-portal
4.	EMD amount	As per e-portal
5.	Pre bid meeting date	03-10-2025 at 11.00 AM
6.	Last date for submission of tender	08-10-2025 upto 04.00 pm
7.	Technical bid opening	09-10-2025 at 04.30 PM
8.	Address for communication	Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council Bidar, Pin Code 585401, E-mail : ka.bidar cmc@gmail.com 08482-240432
9.	Website	https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/-
Commissioner
City Corporation, Bidar

Hindu Religious Institutions & Charitable Endowments Department
SRI BANASHANKARI TEMPLE
S. Kariyappa Road, Bangalore - 70. Ph : 080-2671 4989.
E-mail: sribanashankaritemple@gmail.com

No.BST4/CR.02/2021-22 Date:17.09.2025

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the order of the Hon'ble High Court and as per the instructions of the Endowment Commissioner, applications are invited from the candidates who have passed the Shaivagama Pravara Examination following the vertical and horizontal reservation for the recruitment of 03 Assistant Priests in the **Sri Banashankari Temple located on S. Kariappa Road, Bangalore.** The application should be received from the administrative office of the temple, and the self-filled applications along with the requested documents should be submitted to the Executive Officer's Office, **Sri Banashankari Temple, S. Kariappa Road, Bangalore, 5600070, at 5:30 PM on 18.10.2025** The applications received later will not be considered. For more information, contact the administrative office during office hours.

Sd/-
Executive Officer

Rain fury: Farmers fear delay in crop loss compensation

Agri survey done, but new joint inspection stalls relief

SRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

Even though the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments have surveyed standing crops damaged by heavy rains, farmers may have to wait longer for compensation.

This follows the government's directive to hold a joint survey led by the Revenue Department. Farmers, however, have demanded that the government consider the crop damage reports already submitted by the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments and release compensation without delay.

Heavy rains in July and August devastated the hopes of farmers expecting a bumper harvest. Standing crops such as green gram, maize, soya, chilli, onion, and tomato spread across more than five lakh hectares in North Karnataka and parts of Malnad were severely damaged.

While farmers claim they salvaged only 25–30% of their crops, Agriculture Department officials estimate nearly 50% of the yield was harvested. This discrepancy has once again brought farmers and the department into conflict.

The government has assured that funds are available to compensate crop losses, but only after a joint survey conducted by the Revenue, Agriculture, and Horticulture Departments. This move has left farmers anxious, especially as they prepare for rabi sowing.

Farmers allege the joint survey is time-consuming and will delay relief. Although Agriculture and Horticulture officials have already submitted preliminary reports, the joint exercise is expected to take another 15 days.

Hasiru Sene leader Mallikarjun Balangoudar criticised the government's decision, stating: "Public infrastructure like roads, bridges, and schools can be assessed anytime. Farmers are in immediate distress after losing their crops. With no assurance on procurement centres and the rabi season approaching, they are being forced to borrow again, which will only deepen their crisis."

According to Agriculture Department Joint Director Manjunath Antaravalli, around 97,600 hectares of crops have been damaged in Dharwad alone. Following instructions from District Incharge Minister Santosh Lad, the joint survey in Dharwad has been completed and the report submitted. The situation in other districts, however, is different.

Deputy commissioners in several districts have only just begun survey work. Reported losses are staggering: 1.05 lakh hectares in Kalaburagi, 30,000 in Vijayapura, 40,000 in Bagalkot, 45,000 in Belagavi, and 22,000 each in Haveri and Gadag. In addition, horticulture crops across nearly 11,000 hectares in the Mumbai-Karnataka region have been affected.

Although Agriculture Department reports are already available, fresh joint surveys with the Revenue Department are now mandatory. Officials admit the process could take at least two more weeks, while heavy rains and waterlogging in Kalyan Karnataka are further hampering the work.

Mahadayi Agitation Committee leader Veeresh Sobaradmath expressed dismay, questioning whether the joint survey was only a tactic to delay compensation. "Though Dharwad has completed its survey, other districts have not. Compensation cannot be restricted to one district. Farmers cannot afford to wait this long, especially with rabi sowing around the corner."

Farmer Manjunath Hiremath added that nearly 80% of green gram and 50% of maize and soya crops have been lost. "We have toiled hard to salvage what little we could. The government must open procurement centres without delay."

Officials at the Agriculture Commissioner's office clarified that the Revenue Department is the parent agency for disbursing compensation. "The Agriculture and Horticulture Departments have completed their assessments. But as per protocol, we have to assist Revenue officials in the joint survey. Only then can compensation be announced and released."

Farmers, however, remain united in their demand: the government should not wait for the joint survey report and must release compensation immediately to enable investment in rabi sowing.

Armed men loot cash, gold worth over Rs 21 cr from bank

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS/PTI: Three masked men, armed with country-made pistols and knives, allegedly robbed the State Bank of India branch in Chadachan town of the district on Tuesday evening, making off with over Rs 21 crore in cash and gold ornaments, police said on Wednesday.

The car used by the robbers was recovered at Hulajanthi in Maharashtra.

According to the bank manager, Tarakeshwar, the accused came under the pretext of opening a new account.

They threatened the manager, staff, and customers with pistols and knives, tied up their hands and feet, and issued death threats.

The gang escaped with 20 kg of gold ornaments worth around Rs 20 crore and Rs 1.4 crore in cash, the FIR stated.

Eight police teams have been formed to trace the suspects. Preliminary investigation revealed that the robbers used a Suzuki EVA vehicle with a fake number plate.

The police recovered the car and a small portion of the stolen gold at Hulajanthi in Maharashtra. It is suspected that the accused fled through Mangawadi towards Pandharpur. Superintendent of Police Lakshman Nimbargi confirmed the investigation is ongoing and assured that the suspects would be apprehended soon.

Belagavi North Zone IGP Chetan Singh Rathod visited Chadachan on Thursday to inspect the situation.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed police to take all precautionary measures to prevent similar incidents. "The car has been identified. I have instructed officials to trace the accused at the earliest and remain alert," he told reporters.

Authorities have urged vigilance across the region while investigation teams continue tracking the robbers, emphasising that all efforts are being made to recover the stolen property and bring the accused to justice.

UKP land cost to hit development spend

UKP, from Page 1

In just the first five months of the fiscal year, the state has suffered a shortfall of Rs 7,413 crore, the finance department said.

Also, the state is likely to lose Rs 6,000 crore due to GST rationalisation. Plus, it will miss Rs 3,000 crore in mining tax, which it cannot levy as President Draupadi Murmu has not approved the enabling law.

The finance department has ruled out any tax hikes next year as the government has already made upward revisions on various levies.

In 2025-26, Siddaramaiah wants to borrow Rs 1.16 lakh crore, which the finance department says is the maximum the state is eligible for. Raising more loans will mean a fiscal deficit exceeding 3% (it is 2.95% now) and total outstanding liabilities breaching 25% (from the present 24.91%) of GSDP, violating the fiscal responsibility law. This situation will continue for the next four years, the finance department said.

The Congress government is already under fire from the BJP over fund shortage and fiscal stress caused by 'guarantee' schemes. Siddaramaiah, however, has claimed that he inherited bad finances of previous BJP government.

DVS loses Rs 3L after fraudsters hack into bank accounts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former Chief Minister and BJP leader D V Sadananda Gowda on Wednesday said he lost Rs 3 lakh after cybercriminals hacked into his bank accounts.

Sadananda Gowda

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Gowda said he would file a police complaint. "When I checked my mobile phone this morning, I found out that three of my bank accounts were hacked. I have lost Rs 3 lakh - Rs 1 lakh from each account," he said.

This comes close on the heels of Kannada actor Upendra and his wife Priyanka's phones being hacked by cybercriminals, who sought Rs 55,000 from their contacts.

SIT discovers skeletal remains from multiple...

SIT, from Page 1

The team entered the forest around 11.30 am and returned briefly at 2.30 pm for lunch, before resuming search. The operation concluded around 7 pm.

It is learnt that the skeletal remains were carried away by SIT personnel in seven to eight buckets and gunny bags. SIT SPs Jitendra Kumar Dayama and CA Simon were present at the spot.

A senior SIT official said the skeletal remains may be handed over to local police for probe.

Dakshina Kannada SP Dr Arun told *DH* that the SIT may transfer evidence to the local police and the latter could, in turn, refer it back to SIT, since the seizures were based on statements made by the complainant-witness to the SIT and the mahazar was conducted on the spot.

"The SIT is assigned with the task of exhumation, whereas these remains were found on the surface level. Logically, local police should conduct probe. Both options are open. A final decision will be taken after discussing with seniors," the SP added.

The skull that the complainant-witness had handed over to police was reportedly collected from same forest area. Vittal Gowda, uncle of Sowjanya who was raped and murdered in 2012, had also shown the area to SIT recently. After this, SIT conducted a search here, which falls under Belthangady forest range, by taking Gowda for mahazar. At that time, skeletal remains were allegedly found lying on the ground.

After SIT'S mahazar on Sept 12, a video of Gowda claiming to have seen several bodies buried at Banglegudde had gone viral.

Go swadeshi, make India developed nation by 2047: PM

Modi, from Page 1

Modi also took a moment to laud the success of Operation Sindoor and said that Indian soldiers "brought Pakistan to its knees" in a blink of an eye. "This is a new India. We are not scared of anyone's nuclear threats; instead we enter the enemy's home and strike," he said.

"Terrorists from Pakistan had wiped the sindoor of our sisters and in response, we destroyed their hideouts," Modi said.

"The world saw yesterday how a Pakistani terrorist shared his ordeal while crying," he said, pointing at a video of Jaish-e-Mohammad commander Ilyas Kashmiri, who claimed that the family of JeM chief Masood Azhar was "torn into pieces on May 7".

He also said that while it is his birthday, it is also the occasion when the Indian Army liberated Hyderabad in 1948.

Modi's birthday also makes a crucial point within the ruling BJP. As several senior BJP leaders including L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi were sent to the "marg darshan mandal" of the party on attaining 75 years of age, there were muted whispers of whether Modi will follow suit.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior and at many places over Coastal Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Sept 18: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	26.7	20.6	00
Bidar	28.2	21.4	8.8
Vijayapura	27	22	01
Dharwad	26.6	NA	TR
Haveri	25.4	21.8	0.6
Kalaburagi	29.2	22.9	0.2
Raichur	29.4	22.8	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	29.2	24.5	16.4
Karwar	28.4	23.8	1.3
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.7	23.7	8.1

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	55.5
Bengaluru	28.6	21.1	TR
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	31	20.9	00
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.5	21.2	00
Davangere	27	20	00
Hassan	27.6	20.8	00
Mysuru	29	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28.4	21.2	01

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	36.3	25.6	00
Kolkata	32.2	26.1	06
Mumbai	28.1	24.5	11
Chennai	33.6	24.1	01
Pune	25.3	22	43
Hyderabad	29.6	23	01
Th'puram	33.5	25.2	00

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalabhavana, 5th Floor, No.5, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM layout, Bannerughatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Electronic Procurement Portal only)

No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/HYR/NGR OHT/906/2025-26
Dated: 17.09.2025

Name of the Work: Construction of 5.00 LL RCC OHT and allied works at W.no.28 in Hiriyur City and Providing, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of 200mm Dia DI-K7 rising main from existing DI line to proposed new OHT under Nagarothana (Muncipality)-4"

Indent No.: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/Work_Indent360/Call-3

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (B),
DIPR/CP/2855/CCL/2025-26 KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/BGKT/TRNS/EE(C)/AEE(C)/25-26/9236-39 Date: 16.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites Tenders for the following works

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 2727 for Conducting detailed survey using modern techiniques for Replacement of exisiting age old 110kV SC line on SC towers by SC line on GI DC towers from 220KV R/S Ghataprabha to 110kV S/S PG Hunshyal to Naganur to Tigadi to Mudalagi to Kulagod tap point for a distance of 31.05 Kms at Loc Nos 15 to 54, 55 to 70, 73 to 76, 78 to 86 & 87 to 114 in Belagavi District.

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 2728 for Conducting detailed survey using modern techiniques for Proposal for conversion of old DC line on DC towers to New MC line on MC towers from Loc No 1 to 8 Total no of towers 8 old SC line on SC tower to new DC line on DC tower from Loc No 139 to 201 Total no of towers 61 of M K Hubli Kittur line and old DC line on DC tower to new MC line on MC tower from Loc No1 to 26 Total no of towers 26 of 110kV Kittur to T-Shegahalli total Length in 40km in Belagavi District.

3) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 2729 for Conducting detailed survey using modern techniques for Strenghthening of 220kV Narendra MK Hubli DC line with Drake conductor by Drake equivalent HPC at Kittur Tq, Belagavi and Dharwad District.

4) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 2730 for Conducting preliminary and detailed survey for replacement of age old 110kV SC line & SC towers by DC line & DC towers between 220kV R/S B.Bagewadi Location No.09 (110KV Old KIADB Line) about 39 Kms which has been LILO to 110KV Nandihal and 110KV S/S Ukkali in B.Bagewadi Tq in Vijayapur District.

The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging onto KPP Portal **website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.09.2025 at 4.30 pm.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electricity, Transmission (Operation) Zone, KPTCL, Near Sector No.45, Navanagar, Bagalkote-587103, Phone No: 08354-233692

OFFICE OF THE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD DIVISION, BALLARI

No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-4/3240/2025-26 Date : 17-09-2025.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the work detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through Karnataka Public Procurement portal (KPPP). Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Note : For any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions or if recalled, tenderers can view in KPP portal. Separate notification in this regard will not be published.

TABLE

Sl No	Details of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)
	5054-(Plan)-Improvements to Bridges on State Highways :	
1)	PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT21564	300.00

The Tender Events are as under:

1)	Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal)	22-09-2025 upto 12.00 Hours
2)	Last date for submission of tenders through KPP portal	25-09-2025 upto 16.00 Hours
3)	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids.	26-09-2025 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (SOUTH), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	South-2	BWSSB/EES-2/PB/1089/2025-26 Dt: 11.09.2025	Rs.40,02,081/- / Rs.80,100/-	02-10-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	04-10-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
2.		BWSSB/EES-2/PB/1087/2025-26 Dt: 11.09.2025	Rs.19,81,100/- / Rs.49,600/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-2).		
3.	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/2524/2025-26 Dt: 12.09.2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.15,99,135/- / Rs.40,000/-	24-09-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	26-09-2025 after 10.30 a.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-2).		
		Office of the Chief Engineer (WEST), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.			
4.	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/2881/2025-26 Dt: 16.09.2025	Rs.5,48,935/- / Rs.13,800/-	26-09-2025 upto 3.00 p.m.	29-09-2025 after 3.00 p.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2).		
		Office of the Chief Engineer (EAST), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.			
5.	East-1	BWSSB/EE(E-1)/PB/2531/2025-26 Dt: 12.09.2025 (12th Call)	Rs.68,64,424/- / Rs.1,37,300/-	25-09-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	26-09-2025 after 5.00 p.m.
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1).		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO 2845/25-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office Of the Deputy Commissioner,
District Urban Development Cell, Vijayapura District, Vijayapura.
Phone No:08352-259855, Email: ka.vijapura.dudc@gmail.com
Office Website: www.vijayapuradudc.mrc.gov.in

No: DUDC-5/NGRTH-4/Tender/CR-01/2025-26 Dated:12.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, DUDC Vijayapura invites Chief Minister Amrut Nagarothan (municipality) Phase-4 project works Tender in two cover system using KW-1 To 4 Documents for KPWD Registered Contractors and details

1) Sindagi TMC Indent No: DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT49147

Contractors who wish to participate in tender can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in For any clarification contact EE / AEE on working hours at office. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

1) Last Date for submission of tenders Date: 25-09-2025 up to 17.00 hrs.
2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) Date: 26-09-2025 after 17.15 hrs
3) Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) Date: 29-09-2025 at 11.00 am afterwards

Addendum / Corrigendum of tenders is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/337/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 **District Urban Development Cell, Vijayapur.**

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಹಿರೇಮಗಳೂರು ವಸತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಒಂದನೇ ಹಂತ, ಹಿರೇಮಗಳೂರು ಕಡೂರು ಬೈಪಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ನಗರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು – 577102. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08262–295712
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.chikmagalur.uda.gov.in, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: cmr_cudackm@yahoo.in

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. ನಅಪ್ರಾಚಿ: ಶ್ರೀ ಎ.ಬಿ.ವಿ.ಪಿ:ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನ:ಇ–ಹರಾಜು/ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:02:2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.09.2025

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ, ಹಿರೇಕೊಳಲೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡಂತಿರುವ ಉಪ್ಪಳ್ಳಿ–ಇಂದಾವರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎ.ಬಿ. ವಾಜಪೇಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 01 ರಿಂದ 150 ರ ವರೆಗಿನ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಇ–ಹರಾಜನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.09.2025 ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಾಲಮಾನ 10:00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.10.2025 ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಾಲಮಾನ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 01 ರಿಂದ 150 ರ ವರೆಗಿನ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಇ–ಹರಾಜನ್ನು ನೇರ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.10.2025 ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಾಲಮಾನ 11:00 ರಿಂದ 17:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವರೆಗೆ (ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ) (ಡೆಲ್ಟಾ ಟೈಮ್ 5 ನಿಮಿಷ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ).

ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಹಣ ಪ್ರತಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ರೂ. 50,000/–ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬಿಡ್ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ರೂ. 10,000/– ಗಳು.

ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ವಿವರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಜಾಲತಾಣ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು.

SC declines plea against Ayyappa devotees' global conclave

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to entertain pleas against the Kerala High Court's order that dismissed petitions challenging the decision of the Travancore Devaswom Board to conduct a global conclave of Ayyappa devotees at Pamba on September 20.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Atul S Chandurkar said the HC had already considered the matter in detail and issued elaborate guidelines for the event. "The conditions laid down by the HC should be followed," said the apex court.

The Kerala High Court on September 11 ordered the state government and the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) to conduct the "Global Ayyappa Sangamam" event at Pamba.

It said the event did not affect the Sabarimala temple's sanctity or disrupt access for devotees visiting the temple in any way.

The court passed the direction after hearing a batch of petitions challenging the state and the TDB's involvement in conducting the event.

The petitioners raised concerns that temple funds might be used for the event, which could involve the participation of individuals opposing Sanatana Dharma.

Kerala HC orders probe into Sabarimala idols' gold plating

KOCHI, PTI: The Kerala High Court on Wednesday took serious note of the reduction in weight of the gold-clad copper plates of the 'Dwarapalaka' (guardian deity) idols in front of the Sabarimala sanctum sanctorum when they were last removed in 2019 and ordered a vigilance probe into the matter.

A bench noted that according to the records regarding the gold-cladded copper plates of the idols, when they were removed in 2019 for fresh gold-plating, they weighed 42.8 kilograms. However, when they were produced before the company entrusted to carry out the gold-plating, their weight was 38.25 kg, the court noted.

It also noted that the plates were presented before the company more than a month and nine days after they were removed from the temple by the sponsor.

It further said that there was also a possibility that the items entrusted to the company by the sponsor were another set of copper plates.

It said that this failure "can be intentional' to ensure that the reduction in weight did not come to light.

It directed the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer to undertake a comprehensive investigation into every aspect noted by it and place a detailed and reasoned report before the court within three weeks.

EVMs to carry colour photos of candidates, starting with Bihar polls

EC issues new ballot paper norms for LS, Assembly polls

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will carry colour photographs of candidates from now on, with the Election Commission (EC) set to roll this out in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections for the first time.

The EC has written to Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all states and union territories, providing guidelines on the design and printing of EVM ballot papers for use in general and by-elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies.

A statement said the EC has revised the existing guidelines under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, in line with the 28 initiatives undertaken since February under Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to improve election processes and enhance voter convenience.

The EC will print photographs of candidates in colour on EVM ballot papers, unless a candidate has submitted only black-and-white photographs, the letter to the CEOs said. The photograph on the ballot will measure 2 cm in width and 2.5 cm in height.

The serial number of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals with a font size of 30 and in bold for clarity. To ensure uniformity, the EC said, the names of all candidates/NOTA will be printed in the same font type and size, large enough for easy readability.

"Unless otherwise directed by the Election Commission in any particular case, the ballot papers shall be printed for Parliamentary elections on white paper and for Assembly elections on pink paper," the letter stated.

The paper quality to be used for printing EVM ballot papers shall be 70 GSM. For Assembly polls, pink-coloured paper with specified RGB values shall be used, it said.

The printing of EVM ballot papers should preferably be done at a government or semi-government press, but if such a facility is unavailable or lacks the required capacity, private printing presses with the necessary capacity may be selected after following due procedure, it added.

The names of no more than fifteen candidates shall be arranged on one sheet of a ballot paper, with the NOTA option coming after the last name. If the total number of contesting candidates, together with NOTA, is fewer than sixteen, the space below the panel shall remain blank, the EC said.

VOTER-FRIENDLY MACHINES

- **Improved visibility:** Candidate photos will cover three-fourths of the space for clearer identification.
- **Prominent serial numbers**: Candidate serial numbers and NOTA will be displayed in bold, large (font size 30) Indian numerals.
- **Uniform design:** All candidate names and NOTA will have consistent font size and type for clarity.
- **New paper and colour:** EVM ballots will be printed on 70 GSM paper, with pink-coloured paper used for assembly elections.

Won't re-induct expelled leaders, EPS tells Shah

AIADMK leader blocks return of Sasikala, OPS, TTV

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Digging his heels in, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has conveyed to the BJP leadership that he is sternly opposed to the readmission of expelled leaders such as V K Sasikala, T T V Dhinakaran, and O Panneerselvam into the party.

This message was conveyed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah when Palaniswami met him at his official residence in New Delhi on Tuesday night.

Palaniswami also discussed

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami. PTI

the ways to strengthen the NDA in Tamil Nadu by reaching out to small parties in the coming months with Shah.

The discussions also centred around the "unification" of the AIADMK, and the BJP granting audience to senior party leader K A Sengottaiyan after he was removed from party posts by EPS for setting a 10-day deadline to launch efforts to unite the party.

"EPS made it clear once again that the AIADMK was united. He impressed upon Shah to respect the AIADMK's decision not to entertain any calls to admit the expelled trio into the party," a source in the party aware of the developments told *DH*.

Though Palaniswami has been reiterating his position for the past four years—he had rejected Shah's idea to induct Dhinakaran into the NDA for the 2021 elections—he has come under pressure to "unify" the AIADMK from BJP and other parties in the past few months with an eye on the 2026 Assembly polls.

BJP and Shah have been pushing Palaniswami for the readmission of the leaders to ensure that the votes of Mukulathors, a politically and socially dominant community spread across Central and Southern parts of the state, are not split, giving an advantage to the already formidable DMK alliance.

TTV and OPS' presence in the NDA helped in pushing the AIADMK into the third place in many Lok Sabha constituencies in the 2024 polls, but Palaniswami believes their appeal is limited and won't impact the party in the 2026 elections.

"It was also conveyed to Shah subtly that none of the three leaders are seen as representing Mukulathors. It is with this motive that EPS requested Shah that the Centre confer Bharat Ratna on Muthuramalinga Thevar," the source added.

Thevar is revered by the Mukulathors, but denounced by Dalits.

It is also believed that EPS told Shah that the AIADMK won't have problems in TTV's AMMK or OPS being part of the NDA. "He is understood to have told Shah that the BJP can ally with any party and share seats. But their readmission into the AIADMK is a strict no," the source added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inspects the Guard of Honour during an event marking the Hyderabad Liberation Day, in Secunderabad on Wednesday. PTI

India uses hard power only when talks fail: Rajnath

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday that just as the Razakars' conspiracy was dismantled in 1948, Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and its agents have been decisively defeated today.

"India has once again delivered a befitting response through Operation Sindoor. We have reaffirmed that our unity and cultural diversity remain our greatest strengths," he said at the Hyderabad Liberation Day event.

Singh asserted that Operation Sindoor, along with the 2016 surgical strike and the 2019 Balakot air strike, serves as proof that India's patience is a strength, not a weakness. He said that the nation resorts to hard power only when negotiations fail to yield results.

The minister said that while India believes in dialogue, it knows how to deliver a befitting reply to those who fail to understand the language of peace and goodwill. He warned that Operation Sindoor is only on hold and will resume in full force if another terrorist activity is orchestrated from across the border.

Tribute to Patel

Singh also paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, hailing his role as the 'Iron Man' in uniting North and South India.

He credited PM Narendra Modi with transforming the nation. "Today, India does not take dictation from anyone; it writes its own script," he said.

He praised the valour of those who took part in Operation Polo in 1948, describing it not merely as a military manoeuvre but as Sardar Patel's decisive strike that dismantled the Razakars' conspiracy and restored Hyderabad to the Indian Union. He called the success of the operation and Hyderabad's merger a glorious chapter in India's history.

Rajnath Singh also visited the Hyderabad Liberation Day Photo Exhibition, a key highlight of the 2025 celebrations. Organised by the Central Bureau of Communication, the exhibit featured nearly 50 panels showcasing historic events and freedom fighters who led the liberation struggle.

Union ministers slam 'suppression' of Telangana Liberation history

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy asserted that the history of Telangana's attainment of 'freedom' and accession to India has been 'wickedly' suppressed by the Congress, BRS, and other parties, keeping current and future generations unaware of these crucial events.

Speaking at the Telangana Liberation Day event, organised by the Union Government on Wednesday, Kishan Reddy called it tragic that the day Telangana gained freedom was excluded from textbooks, rarely discussed publicly, and ignored by governments.

"The people of Telangana should question why these parties have been neglecting and concealing the history of the day when freedom came to our region and the tricolour was hoisted," he said.

Kishan Reddy explained that Hyderabad Liberation Day was not celebrated because the MIM party was established under Qasim Razvi's leadership in the Nizam state. "Their private army, the Razakars, massacred many people," he said.

"Therefore, fearing the MIM party, some parties and the state government have been suppressing this history, sacrifices, and facts for many years," he added.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay expressed concern that Telangana would have turned into "another Pakistan, Sri Lanka, or Bangladesh—a land of chaos and hunger" if it had not merged with India.

Rahul presser today; could drop 'hydrogen bomb'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

After promising a 'hydrogen bomb' of expose on 'vote chori' over a fortnight ago, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will hold a 'special' press conference in New Delhi on Thursday, amid speculation that he will make new claims on constituencies of at least two states and a high-profile Lok Sabha seat.

Congress Media and Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Khera posted on 'X' that Rahul will hold a 'special press briefing' at 10 am in the party headquarters.

This press conference comes 40 days after Rahul raised questions on the electoral outcome of the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha seat, claiming that there was 'chori' of one lakh votes in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment.

While he had termed the Mahadevapura expose an 'atom bomb', Rahul had on September 1 said in Patna that a 'hydrogen bomb' will soon unravel the truth of 'vote chori', following which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be able to show his face to the country.

There is no official word from the Congress on the subject of the press conference, but speculation is rife that Rahul may come up with revelations on a few seats in Haryana and Gujarat. Some Congress supporters have speculated that it could be about Varanasi, which is represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Earlier, UP Congress President Ajay Rai, who contested against Modi, had claimed that Rahul's next disclosure could be about Varanasi and the 'hydrogen bomb' would explode there. However, he was quick to add that he had not spoken to Rahul on this.

Rahul gifts new bicycle to Amritsar boy

Six-year-old Amritpal Singh from Amritsar has received a new bicycle after the boy was seen crying before Rahul Gandhi for his damaged one during the Congress leader's visit to the flood-hit area, reports PTI.

In a video shared by the Punjab Congress on Wednesday, Amritpal spoke to Gandhi on a video call, thanking him for the new bicycle.

"Is bicycle good?" Gandhi asked Amritpal on the video call.

During his tour to flood-affected areas in Punjab on September 15, Gandhi visited the residence of Amritpal in Ghonewal village.

Cong CWC meet in Patna on Sept 24 amid vote theft row

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Taking forward the reception the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' received in Bihar, the Congress will hold a meeting of its Working Committee in Patna on September 24, where the leadership is slated to finetune its electoral strategy for the state and finalise its campaign on 'vote chori' against the ruling BJP.

This will be an extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting where the party's Chief Ministers, state presidents and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leaders also participate with regular members and permanent and special invitees. Party president Mallikarjun Kharge will chair the meeting.

The choice of venue indicates the party's plans to leverage on the two-week-long Rahul's yatra in Bihar, which leaders cutting across parties claim to have resonance on the ground. Congress managers said they want to take it forward by sending a message to the cadre and voters.

Sources said the Congress leadership will deliberate on the campaign strategy for Bihar elections, future polls and a specific campaign on 'vote chori' with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi promising to drop a "hydrogen bomb" of expose.

Besides Kharge and Rahul, top leaders like Sonia Gandhi, KC Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Ajay Maken and party CMs Siddaramaiah, A Revanth Reddy and Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, as well as Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, among others, will attend.

The meeting comes within a month of the conclusion of Voter Adhikar Yatra led by Rahul and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav on September 1, as also in the midst of seat-sharing talks between 'Mahagathbandhan' (Grand Alliance) partners.

2 women Maoists killed in Gadchiroli encounter

MUMBAI, DHNS: Two women Maoist cadres were killed in an encounter with the police and security forces in the Etapalli tehsil of Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Wednesday. The incident was reported from the Modaske village, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Etapalli tehsil.

The operation was launched after credible intelligence was received about members of the Gatta Local Organisation Squad camping in the forest next to the village.

Aheri's Additional Superintendent of Police Satya Sai Karthik, along with five C60 jawans, launched an operation, as the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and others laid a cordon.

"When the C60 contingent was searching the jungle area, the Maoists fired indiscriminately at them, and the special forces retaliated effectively. Area search of the jungle led to the recovery of the bodies of two women Maoists with an automatic AK-47 rifle, a pistol, live ammunition, a large amount of literature, and other belongings," said officials.

Police said 93 Maoists have been killed since 2021 in Gadchiroli, while 130 others have been arrested and 75 surrendered.

CPM lawmaker warns against Zoho managing govt, Parl emails

NEW DELHI, DHNS: CPM MP John Brittas on Wednesday warned that the government's move to hand over the management and hosting of official email services, including those of Parliament, to Zoho Corporation poses 'serious risks' to confidentiality and public interest, as he objected to 'relegating' the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to a 'minor role'.

In a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan, he also flagged the 'ideological proximity' of the company's leadership with the Modi government, claiming that Zoho promoter Sridhar Vembu 'never desisted' from supporting the government on issues such as the role of Hindi and the removal of the word 'socialism' from the Constitution.

Brittas urged the Chairman to direct the government to make a full and transparent disclosure of the process by which Zoho Corporation was given the mandate.

Brittas said it was reliably learnt that around 50 lakh government email inboxes will be managed by Zoho.

"Such restructuring inevitably raises concerns about the independence, confidentiality, and perceived impartiality of Parliamentary communications... All official communications and transactions of MPs are routed through this infrastructure, operated and authenticated by a private corporate entity. Such an arrangement carries profound implications," he said.

For decades, Brittas pointed out, the NIC has acted as the custodian of the government's internal communication networks and email services, adding no evidence has been shared as to why the NIC is unable to manage backend operations of this core communication infrastructure.

FAITH NO BAR

Kerala Muslim leader honours Hindu woman's last wish

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

In yet another instance of communal harmony in Kerala, a local Congress leader from the Muslim community fulfilled the last wish of a woman by performing her final rites according to Hindu customs.

T Safeer, ward member of Chittattumukku in the Kadinamkulam panchayat on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram, is being widely lauded for the compassionate gesture, one that is not new to him. Safeer has previously performed the last rites of three destitute women, including two from the Hindu community.

Rakhi (44) was a resident of the Benedict Menni Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Centre in Menamkulam. Diagnosed with mental illness, she was unable to recall her family roots, though it is believed she hailed from Chhattisgarh. As her health deteriorated due to other illnesses, she expressed her wish to the nuns at the centre that her last rites be performed according to Hindu customs.

Safeer is being lauded for his compassionate gesture.

After Rakhi passed away last week, Safeer visited the centre. It was then that he learned of her final wish. Without hesitation, he volunteered to fulfil it.

"I don't see religion as a barrier to humanity. There is no restriction on anyone performing the last rites of another person, regardless of their faith," Safeer told *DH*.

Earlier, he had performed the last rites of three women inmates at the rehabilitation centre, all of whom had no relatives. Two were from the Hindu community, and one from the Muslim community.

After some of his friends shared videos and photos of Safeer performing the last rites on social media, the posts went viral, and Safeer has been widely appreciated.

Meenatai Thackeray bust at Shivaji Park vandalised; 1 held

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Unidentified miscreants threw red paint on the bust of Meenatai Thackeray, the wife of late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, at the historic Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Wednesday.

One person had been detained by late evening in connection with the incident of vandalism, which is believed to have taken place between 6 am and 7 am.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and MNS president Raj Thackeray separately visited the area after the incident and said they hoped the police would be able to nab the culprits as soon as possible.

The police said they were examining CCTV footage and mobile phone data to gather leads about the miscreants. It is not yet clear whether one person or a group was involved in the incident.

The incident took place on the 140th birth anniversary of Uddhav and Raj's grandfather Prabodhankar Thackeray — a social reformer, writer, and one of the pillars of the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement.

Meenatai, revered as Maasaheb, played a big role in the growth of Shiv Sena. Her bust is a stone's throw away from Sena Bhavan, the headquarters of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

"I feel that two types of people could be behind it. Someone who feels ashamed to even mention the name of his father and mother, or just as there was an unsuccessful attempt to shut down Bihar for insulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother, there could be an attempt by someone to shut down Maharashtra," said Raj.

Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam said strict action would be taken against the culprits.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Sharavathi project: Old errors, new costs

The Sharavathi Valley in Shivamogga district, home to lush forests, wildlife, and the world-famous Jog Falls, has once again become the epicentre of a development-versus-conservatio n battle. The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) has proposed the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project (PSP), a 2,000-MW hydroelectric scheme that promises clean energy and grid stability for the state. The project will use solar or wind power during the day to pump water from Gerusoppa reservoir to the upstream Talakalale reservoir, releasing it through turbines to generate electricity during peak evening demand. On paper, the project seems attractive. It leverages existing infrastructure, relies on renewable hydropower, and promises to strengthen the state's energy security without burning fossil fuels.

However, beneath this promise lie concerns too grave to ignore. The project site lies within the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary, part of the fragile Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Environmentalists warn that blasting, tunnelling, and the felling of more than 16,000 trees will fragment habitats and threaten biodiversity. Landslides in this geologically sensitive region pose another threat. Critics also point out that the Environmental Impact Assessment is flawed and opaque, failing to account for cumulative ecological and social costs. The project also reopens old wounds. Many families in Henne, Maratha Keri, and neighbouring villages face displacement for the second time. Their parents and grandparents were uprooted in the 1960s when the Linganamakki dam was built. Promises of land titles, fair compensation, and infrastructure support have remained unfulfilled. Now, the same communities are being asked to sacrifice again, with little confidence that past mistakes will not be repeated. Their anger is not just about losing land but about broken trust.

The clean energy promise comes with serious threats to biodiversity, rehabilitation concerns

What, then, is the way forward? Some environmentalists suggest abandoning the project entirely in favour of alternatives such as battery energy storage systems (BESS), rooftop solar, and micro-hydel projects. These technologies are evolving rapidly and offer solutions with far less ecological disruption. If the state insists on pursuing the project, it must begin with a fresh, independent environmental assessment, a transparent consultative process, and a commitment to protecting biodiversity hotspots. Most importantly, any rehabilitation must ensure compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, or provide land-for-land compensation, legal titles, and livelihood support for affected families. Karnataka needs clean energy, but not at the cost of priceless natural heritage and the dignity of its people. The Sharavathi project, in its current form, risks repeating the mistakes of the past. Development cannot be brought in through displacement and ecological ruin.

Right to shelter, with safeguards

The Supreme Court's reiteration that the right to housing is part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution has a significance that goes beyond the case which occasioned the ruling. The Court has, in several past judgements, underlined the right to housing, which is also an important, internationally recognised human right. In its past judgements, the Court has engaged with multiple aspects of the right, and maintained that the right to shelter is not just the right to have a roof over the head but also to have a safe and habitable dwelling with basic infrastructure. The government has not been able to provide this to the vast majority in the country, and the policies that seek to translate this right into a reality are flawed, as reflected in the many housing schemes initiated by the Central and state governments.

An important aspect of the case before the apex court involved the protection of homebuyers' interests in the commercial housing market, which has witnessed a major expansion during the last few years. A combination of the demand for houses, the big money involved in the business, and the adoption of unethical practices by many in the sector has led to widespread exploitation of homebuyers. The Court took note of serious issues plaguing the sector and warned against the building of asset bubbles. It said the State must address "the menace of a parallel cash economy and speculative practices in the real estate market."

The Supreme Court's ruling addresses rights in the context of pitfalls in the real estate sector

In a significant recommendation, the Court has told the Central government to consider establishing a revival fund that would provide bridge finance for real estate projects under stress. This is intended to prevent the liquidation of viable projects and to safeguard homebuyers' interests. The setting up of the fund may help to avert cancellation of ongoing projects which often leaves homebuyers high and dry. For the proposal to achieve its stated objective, it must facilitate easy, time-bound access. Many people invest their life savings in homes and may not be able to recover from the losses incurred in shelved projects. It has been seen that the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) is not always able to protect their interests. The Court has also ordered the constitution of a committee headed by a retired high court judge, to initiate systemic reforms of the real estate sector. This is a statement of intent to check malpractices in the industry but the road to the promised reforms will be long.

FIRING TOO FAR

Doha strike turns the heat on Israel

The aggression on Qatar, condemned by the US and the GCC, has deepened Israel's diplomatic isolation

VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

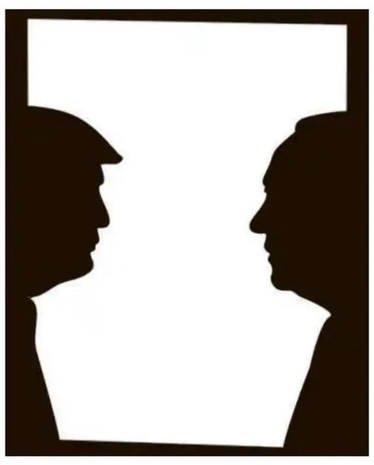
As Israel continues to intensify its ground offensive on Gaza, there are indications that its attack on the Hamas leadership in Doha on September 9 is heavily recoiling on the Benjamin Netanyahu government. Wes Streeting, the United Kingdom's Health Secretary, has warned that the "Netanyahu government's handling of the Gaza war is leading Israel to pariah status." This was on the eve of Israeli President Herzog's visit to the UK to express solidarity with the British Jewish community, which, Herzog's office alleged, "is under severe attack and facing a wave of antisemitism." However, Streeting insisted that Herzog "needs to answer the allegations of war crimes, of ethnic cleansing, and of genocide that are being levelled at the government of Israel."

+972 Magazine, an Israeli left-wing periodical, said in a 2014 survey that over 70% of Israelis were worried about international isolation. Israel, which is heavily reliant on foreign trade and investment, has always wished to align with Western democracies as it has less resilience, unlike Iran or Russia, to "cope economically, militarily, and psychologically with sanctions and global disapprobation", as the magazine *Foreign Policy* said recently.

Significantly, on September 8, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer hosted Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas at 10 Downing Street. The PM is reported to have promised "to recognise a Palestinian State ahead of the UN General Assembly later this month unless Israel changes course". Spain, Ireland, and Norway have already announced their recognition, while Belgium, Australia, Portugal, Canada, and Malta have stated plans to go with Britain and France in recognising Palestinian statehood, joining more than 140 other countries.

Los Angeles Times noted that American credibility in the Gulf states was the first casualty when Israel attacked the Hamas leadership in Doha, as these states had seen their security as assured, with "tens of billions of their petrodollars and agreements that allowed the US to dot the Middle East with some of its largest military facilities". It was particularly incredulous that Israel, which depends mainly on America, could attack Qatar, which hosts the Al Udeid Air Base, the largest American military installation in the region.

It was also a personal insult to President Donald Trump, as he had signed a "historic" US-Qatar economic agreement valued at $1.2 trillion in May this year, besides accepting a luxury jet as an "unconditional donation". As a result, the US joined other members at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in condemning the attack, an unprecedented action, as America



always vetoes anti-Israel resolutions. During the UNSC meeting, Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani alleged that the Israeli government was "led by blusterous extremists."

Personally, Trump exhibited his exasperation by saying that the raid did not "advance Israel or America's goals" as Qatar was hosting Hamas leaders since 2012 for "indirect negotiations" with Israel, as desired by America. Also, the Abraham Accords initiated by Trump in September 2020 towards normalisation of Israel-Arab states relations lay in tatters as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), one of the important signatories, slammed the "blatant and cowardly" attack.

Abu Dhabi also summoned the Israeli ambassador to convey that any aggression against a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-state was considered "an attack on the collective Gulf security framework". The attack marked the first direct strike by Israel on one of the GCC member-states.

Politico reported on September 9 that Trump and his top aides had come to question whether Netanyahu, who authorised the strike, "was trying to sabotage the talks". It quoted a White House insider: "Every time they're making progress, it seems like he bombs someone, the person said. That's why the President and his aides are so frustrated with Netanyahu."

A US-endorsed negotiation

Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported on September 13 that Trump had dinner with the Qatari prime minister in New York, days after the Israeli attack. They were joined by US special envoy Steve Witkoff.

Netanyahu had alleged that Qatar was the chief financier of Hamas terrorists, besides hosting them. This was contested by independent observers who quoted an op-ed piece in *The Wall Street Journal* in 2023, by the Qatari ambassador to the US, Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani, that Washington wanted Qatar "to establish indirect lines of communication with Hamas".

Al Thani added: "The presence of the Hamas office shouldn't be confused with endorsement but rather establishes an important channel for indirect communication". *The New York Times* has confirmed that Netanyahu had secretly approved this contact through Doha.

In a video address on the 9/11 anniversary, Netanyahu invoked Israel's right to attack the 'terrorist' base in Doha just as the US had invaded Afghanistan in 2001 for sending terrorists to attack America on 9/11. This argument has not impressed anybody as the US had first moved the UNSC, which passed Resolution No. 1368 that condemned the "horrifying terrorist attacks which took place on 11 Sept. 2001" and called on "all States to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of these terrorist attacks". The US had taken this as a UN authorisation and invaded Afghanistan, which had given shelter to Osama bin Laden.

As against this, Israel had continuously been attacking and killing UN personnel extending humanitarian assistance to the Gaza civilians, including women and children. Democrat senators Chris Van Hollen and Jeff Merkley confirmed this during their visit that Israel was doing "ethnic cleansing" of the local population and starving them of food, using hunger as a weapon.

(The writer is a former special secretary, Cabinet Secretariat; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Fortune as the cookie crumbles

We wanted to keep the magic alive for my granddaughter

SAEED IBRAHIM

To celebrate my birthday last month, I was treated by my family to dinner at one of the highly recommended pan-Asian restaurants. Since we were a fairly large group, we were seated around a circular table with a rotating Lazy Suzy at the centre. The atmosphere in the restaurant was relaxed, with comfortable seating, a pleasing themed décor, discreet background music, good service and, as we were to discover, great food.

At the end of the meal we were served with a tray of Chinese fortune cookies. Fortune cookies are not in fact Chinese in origin. They most likely came from Japan and were brought to California by Japanese immigrants in the late 19th or early 20th century. The original Japanese version was later modified and embraced by local Chinese restaurants and very soon the popularity of the fortune cookie spread to other parts of the United States and to countries all over the world.

The cookie, a crisp and sugary wafer made from flour, sugar, vanilla and sesame seed oil, is not the main attraction; the tiny strip of paper extracted by cracking open a randomly selected cookie, is. The suspense of what the message could contain and its possible relevance leaves us spell-bound and cracking open a fortune cookie is one of those childhood joys that we never seem to outgrow. Never mind that the missive is usually an innocuous piece of writing with a vague prophecy or a piece of advice. These are in any case too stereo-typed and general to have any real meaning. What matters is that the messages are actually quite entertaining and provide much amusement and hilarity when read aloud, exchanged and shared with all those present.

My four-year-old granddaughter watched with wonder as each cookie was cracked open to reveal a small strip of paper bearing the fortune message inside. She squealed with delight when her own message was read out to her, "A nice surprise awaits you this week." She left the restaurant with the excited expectation of the surprise that she was going to receive from the "paper cookie," as she called it.

Were we going to keep that magic alive for her like millions of adults around the world sustain the myth of Santa Claus or the legendary Tooth Fairy to bring wonderment and joy into children's lives? The excitement and sheer ecstasy on my granddaughter's face was worth watching, as the following day she tore open the Peppa Pig puzzle that she had been eyeing in the neighbourhood toy shop. And all thanks to the humble fortune cookie!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lack of political will reduces RTI to a mere symbol

Apropos 'Central Information Commission left without chief again' (Sep 17), the Modi government's reluctance to take early steps, as directed by the Supreme Court, to fill all forthcoming vacancies in the CIC is predictable, given its previous actions that have undermined this constitutional body. In fact, post-2014, the Supreme Court's intervention has been necessary to prompt appointments, highlighting the government's lack of urgency. The 2019 amendment to the RTI Act, which allows the government to determine the tenure and emoluments of information commissioners, has also compromised the institution's autonomy and independence. The RTI is not a priority with the government now; its ecosystem is plagued by inefficiencies and delays at all levels, resulting in massive backlogs of applications and appeals. Without political will, the RTI risks becoming a mere symbol.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Sports and politics

The recent Asia Cup match between India and Pakistan has sparked controversy over the Indian captain's refusal to shake hands with his Pakistani counterpart after India's seven-wicket victory ('A message lost in the denied handshake,' (Sep 17). While India's decision to participate in the tournament was logical, the captain's actions have made a political statement muddling the situation. Pakistan's threat to boycott future matches may be empty rhetoric, given the financial implications. However, the situation raises questions about the Indian captain's behaviour and potential implications, particularly if India wins the Asia Cup finals, as the PCB chief is required to hand over the trophy. In that case will the Indian captain receive it?

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Becoming a ghost city?

It is high time the authorities in Bengaluru took drastic steps to alleviate the city's traffic nightmare. Unbearable traffic bottlenecks, potholes, and a huge vehicle population have become major curses for this technology hub. The problem worsens daily, with no solution in sight. Curbs on new vehicle registrations, rapid action on potholes, and a ban on old vehicles could help. A special agency with powers to address traffic issues is also necessary. If the government fails to act, Bengaluru risks becoming a ghost city. Sincere and constructive actions are essential to make Bengaluru a liveable city.

V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Maybe for the first time in our history we have such a prime minister who not only raised ground-level problems but also gave solutions to those problems...

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister

...There's no such thing as a politician any more: only sycophants and dissidents.

Daniel Alarcon

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Strong ULBs key to future-proof cities

Revenue and expertise gaps are widening. Empowered cities are our best chance to beat the sprawl

BASAVARAJU R SHRESHTA AND ALOK VIRENDRA TIWARI

India's cities drive more than 60% of the country's GDP and house 480 million people – a number projected to cross 800 million by 2050, according to the UN's World Urbanisation Prospects (2018). Yet, the very institutions constitutionally mandated to govern these spaces – Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) – operate with revenues amounting to just 0.8% of GDP. By contrast, municipalities in Brazil and South Africa command 6-7% of GDP, according to World Bank and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment, passed more than three decades ago, promised decentralised, empowered city governments. In practice, however, most ULBs lack financial autonomy, skilled personnel, and authority over core urban services.

A worrying trend is the weakening of democracy at the city level. Since 2020, over 15 states have postponed municipal elections. Tamil Nadu went more than ten years without one, from 2011 to 2022. Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh have also delayed elections, citing delimitation disputes, reservation challenges, and legal conflicts. In the absence of timely elections, citizens face governance by administrators rather than elected representatives, undermining the core intent of the 74th Amendment.

According to the RBI's State Finances Report (2023), municipal revenues remain stuck at 0.8% of GDP, among the lowest globally. Most ULBs rely heavily on property taxes, but outdated valuation methods and poor collection systems keep revenues stagnant.

The mismatch between functions and funds is stark. As compiled from NITI Aayog (2019) and RBI (2023) reports, solid waste management forms 22% of ULB responsibilities but gets only 9% of the budgets. Public transport accounts for 18% of the functions but just 5% of the spending. While urban planning covers 15% of the responsibilities, it receives barely 4% of the funds. Water supply, health, sanitation, and education, too, remain underfunded relative to their assigned responsibilities.

This structural funding gap prevents even basic services like waste collection and clean water from being delivered effectively, let alone transformative city planning. Municipal finance systems remain tethered to outdated revenue streams while urban responsibilities have expanded dramatically over the years.

Weak institutional capacity compounds the financial crunch. A 2022 Indian Institute for Human Settlements report found that most smaller towns do not have a single qualified town planner. More than a third of technical posts in ULBs remain vacant, as noted in NITI Aayog's Report on Urban Local Bodies (2019). Unsurprisingly, an audit of 393 ULBs across 18 states revealed that less than half of the planned projects were completed on time.

Rise of parastatals

Urban governance has increasingly shifted to parastatal entities such as development authorities, industrial development corporations, and smart city Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). These bodies report directly to state governments and often bypass city councils and mayors. While they may deliver projects, they erode democratic accountability by sidelining elected representatives. The result is governance shaped by "invisible hands" with little direct accountability to residents.

These bodies have often emerged to fill critical service gaps where local administrations lack trained personnel or technical resources. However, this workaround, while addressing immediate needs, risks creating parallel systems that are difficult to integrate into broader urban development frameworks, making long-term planning and coordination more challenging.

India will add another 416 million urban residents by 2050. Cities must lead economic growth, climate resilience, and innovation. Yet, without empowered ULBs, inequalities will deepen, infrastructure will lag, and global competitiveness will erode. Coordinated planning reduces service overlaps and ensures that funds are allocated to areas with measurable impact, like expanding access to clean drinking water, improving waste management systems, or building resilient transport networks that reduce commute times and emissions. Efficient municipal governments are central to India's development story.

ULBs could be empowered by 1) mandating timely municipal elections, ending chronic administrative delays; 2) modernising property tax systems and implementing formula-based devolution, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission; 3) launching State Urban Services to professionalise municipal staffing, and 4) limiting parastatal powers in areas constitutionally assigned to ULBs, ensuring governance remains representative and accountable.

India's urban future cannot be defined by GDP growth alone. It will be judged by lit streets, clean drains, efficient public transport, and resilient neighbourhoods. Our cities, larger than many countries in population, deserve effective and accountable governance.

The choice is clear: empower city governments now, or risk watching Indian cities buckle under the pressures of a rapidly urbanising century.

(Basavaraju is executive director, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement; Alok is programme manager – instructional delivery, Rishihood University)

In Kerala, CPM invokes Ayyappa to blunt Sangh advances

DATELINE Thiruvananthapuram

ARJUN RAGHUNATH

The CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's surprising decision to organise the Global Ayyappa Sangamam on the banks of the Pamba River near the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple on September 20 has sparked intense debate in Kerala.

More surprisingly, the LDF government is also planning similar meetings of the various segments of the society, including the minority communities, to discuss their issues.

The critics see this as a political manoeuvre -- the underlying aim appears to be pre-empting the Hindutva forces from appropriating Ayyappa and the powerful cultural symbolism of Sabarimala.

The Pinarayi Vijayan government insists that the Global Ayyappa Sangamam is not a state government event but that of the Travancore Devaswom Board, which manages the temple and is marking its platinum jubilee celebrations. Officially, the purpose is to discuss the development plans for the hill shrine and attract more pilgrims to the temple. But the political calculation of the CPM is quite clear: to maintain a soft Hindutva approach to arrest the drift of the Hindu-Ezhava votes towards the Bharatiya Janata Party, while bringing other Hindu groups closer to the party by shedding its anti-Hindu image.

The Ezhavas, Kerala's largest Hindu community comprising 23% of the population, have long been considered the backbone of the Communist vote. However, in recent elections, BJP has made inroads into Ezhava strongholds. A strong BJP-Sangh Parivar campaign against 'minority appeasement' by both the LDF and the opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front played a key role in this drift. After the 2024 Lok Sabha election results, CPM leadership acknowledged this erosion by openly speaking out against the trend.

The reactions of Congress and BJP to the Sangamam -- what could be termed Pinarayi government's social engineering strategy -- betray their unease. With the event organised just ahead of the local body and Assembly polls in the state, both fear losing ground. Major Hindu outfits such as the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP), representing the Hindu-Ezhava community, and the Nair Service Society (NSS), representing Nairs, have also extended their support to the Ayyappa Sangamam. They are also wary of appearing to obstruct "development" at Sabarimala, lest they be seen as opposing the interests of Hindu pilgrims.

Instead, they have raked up memories of the bitter 2018-2019 conflicts when the state government sought to enforce the Supreme Court's order permitting women of all ages to enter Sabarimala (temple rules prohibit the entry of women of menstruating age). Both Congress and BJP now ask whether the CPM government will withdraw its affidavit supporting women's entry, and they point to the still-pending cases against those who protested.

While the invitation extended to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, an avowed atheist, to the Global Ayyappa Sangamam came as a boon for the BJP and Sangh Parivar groups to question the intention of the event, the row was averted with Stalin deciding to keep away and instead deputing two of his cabinet colleagues, HR&CE minister P K Sekarbabu and IT minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan -- both reportedly ardent devotees of Ayyappa.

Some Hindu activists had even approached the Kerala High Court and the Supreme Court against the Ayyappa Sangamam, raising concerns that Lord Ayyappa's name and the Devaswom's funds were being misused for a political event and that the event, which is expected to witness participation of over 3,000 persons from different places, will affect the sanctity of the venue. But the high court gave the go-ahead, and the Supreme Court refused to interfere.

A recent row over procedural lapses in removing the gold-plating of the idols of Dwarapalaka at Sabarimala temple for repair works were also used by the BJP and Sangh Parivar outfits to campaign against the CPM government, which has moved ahead with the preparations for the Ayyappa Sangamam.

As the CPM government continues preparations for the Sangamam, political analysts are not ruling out the chances of the party suffering more loss than gain from the social engineering strategy.

"The CPM is now making an attempt to make electoral gain by appeasing all communities, which is never expected from a Communist party. The CPM may or may not gain from it. But strategies with communal objectives might not go down well with the party's secular vote base. Hence, there is a chance of this move backfiring on the CPM," says political analyst J Prabash.

There is even criticism that the decision to hold the Ayyappa Sangamam was taken without much discussion in the CPM or LDF. But voices of discontent have remained muted, thanks to Pinarayi's strong grip on the party, especially after scripting a second consecutive win in 2021 despite adverse factors like the Sabarimala women's entry issue.

As the lone communist government in the country turns to an emotive plank like faith for political leverage, it appears that the Sangh Parivar forces have succeeded in reshaping electoral narratives in a state marked for its progressive, secular history.

DHNS

British authorities have ramped up the use of facial recognition, AI, and internet regulation to address crime and other issues, stoking concerns of surveillance overreach

ADAM SATARIANO AND LIZZIE DEARDEN

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Has Britain gone too far with its digital controls?

British authorities have ramped up the use of facial recognition, artificial intelligence and internet regulation to address crime and other issues, stoking concerns of surveillance overreach.

As a couple with a stroller walked by a police van adorned with cameras on one of London's busiest shopping streets this month, officers stopped the man for questioning. After several minutes, they put him in handcuffs and took him away.

Such scenes have become increasingly common as British authorities have ramped up the use of live facial recognition. Since January 2024, more than 1,000 people have been charged or cited in London with the help of the technology, which scans people's faces and compares their image in real time to a database of about 16,000 wanted individuals, according to the police.

British authorities have also recently expanded oversight of online speech, tried weakening encryption and experimented with artificial intelligence to review asylum claims. The actions, which have accelerated under Prime Minister Keir Starmer with the goal of addressing societal problems, add up to one of the most sweeping embraces of digital surveillance and internet regulation by a Western democracy.

That has put Britain at the forefront of a debate over the choices that democracies will have to make about security, privacy, civil liberties and governing in the digital age. Critics contend that the nation has gone too far, intruding on the daily lives of citizens with technology and regulation. But others argue the measures are a pragmatic adaptation to technological change to strengthen safety and national security.

"There's a big philosophical debate going on here," said Ryan Wain, the executive director of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, a London group started by the former prime minister that supports the government's policies. "There's a big question about what is freedom and what is safety."

In a statement, Britain's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, which oversees digital policy, said the public expected the government to utilise modern technology.

"We make no apologies for using the latest tools to help tackle crime, protect children online and secure our borders while safeguarding freedoms and ensuring the internet is safe for everyone," a spokesperson said. "Our focus is on safety and national security, not unnecessary intrusion."

This year, the government expanded internet regulation with a new law aimed at preventing children from accessing online pornography and content that might encourage self-harm, suicide or eating disorders. In July, the law, called the Online Safety Act and passed under the previous Conservative government, introduced age verification checks for Reddit, Instagram and other services. Civil liberties campaigners have said it weakens privacy, while child safety groups have said the requirements can be easily evaded or ignored.

In July, Nigel Farage, whose populist Reform UK party leads in national polls, called for the repeal of the law, arguing it was a form of censorship and "borderline dystopian." He has also criticised the recent arrests of people for social media posts that were made under old laws against hate speech and incitement.

Melanie Dawes, CEO of Ofcom, the agency implementing the new online safety law, said the new policies were essential for protecting children and did not infringe on speech. "There's no silver bullets here," she said in an interview. "But our job is to drive change and we're beginning to do that."

As President Donald Trump visits Britain this week, the tech debate has also taken on trans-Atlantic significance. The Trump administration and Republican lawmakers recently criticised Britain's online safety law as an attack on both free speech and US tech companies. This month, Farage testified at a congressional hearing in Washington about perceived threats to free speech in Britain.

The Trump administration also intervened in February after Britain ordered Apple to create an easy way for intelligence agencies and law enforcement officials to retrieve encrypted user data stored on the company's servers. Last month, Tulsi Gabbard, the US national intelligence director, said Britain had dropped the demand after American officials stepped in. British authorities have declined to comment.

Over the past year, Britain has also expanded the use of artificial intelligence and algorithmic tools to handle immigration, including using the technologies to screen asylum applications, as well as exploring the introduction of digital IDs.

A spokesperson for the Home Office, which manages immigration, said the moves have helped process a backlog of asylum claims and have enabled "human caseworkers, who will always be in charge of taking decisions, to reduce the time they have to spend on lengthy administrative tasks."

But the technologies have raised concerns among some government workers, who question how effectively caseworkers can oversee AI and lament the lack of laws regulating its usage. If asylum decisions involving AI are legally challenged, one official said, Britain's specialist immigration courts could get clogged with appeals and slow the system down.

Facial recognition has been perhaps the most visible sign of Britain's expanding tech policies. Jake Hurfurt, the head of research and investigations at the privacy group Big Brother Watch, said the country had deployed the tools far more than other democracies.

"There has to be limits," he said, noting that the European Union recently adopted a law to limit the use of facial recognition.

Gavin Stephens, chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, said the faces of innocent people were not stored by authorities. Last month at the Notting Hill Carnival, an annual street festival to celebrate Caribbean culture, 61 arrests were made of individuals identified by live facial recognition, including some wanted for violent offenses and crimes against women.

"Why wouldn't you use this sort of technology if there were people who were wanted for serious offenses and were a risk to public safety?" Stephens said in an interview. "It's definitely an important thing for the future."

Mark Rowley, head of the Metropolitan Police in London, wants to go further. At a conference in Westminster this month, he said facial recognition would be integrated into officers' phones so they could switch it on to "confirm suspects' identities on the street more efficiently." Authorities are also testing affixing permanent facial recognition cameras in certain areas of London.

A spokesperson for the Metropolitan Police said the technology was accurate, with only one person being misidentified in 2024 out of more than 33,000 cases.

Prison authorities are also expanding their use of AI. In July, the Ministry of Justice, which oversees the prison system, introduced an "AI Action Plan" that includes algorithmic tools for predicting things like the risk a prisoner poses to the public if released from jail. The agency is also requiring people on parole to undergo "remote check-in surveillance" on their mobile devices under a new pilot aimed at "preventing crimes before they happen."

When facial recognition cameras were set up in London's shopping area along Oxford Street this month, the police said they arrested seven people, including those wanted for robbery and assault. They would not specify why the man with the stroller was detained.

The New York Times

Adivasis: The erased guardians of forests

KRISHNAMURTHY K V

As India approaches 100 years of independence, it is time to pause and ask a painful but necessary question: Who did this independence really reach, and who was left behind?

In the dense forests and hilly tracts of Karnataka live more than a lakh people from forest-dependent communities such as the Jenu Kuruba, Iruliga, Soliga, Yerava, Paniya, Hasalaru, Gowdalu, Siddhi, Koraga, Bettakuruba, Kudiya, and Malekudiya. They have lived here for generations, often on the invisible margins; many without land rights, without basic services, and with only seasonal or migrant jobs in coffee estates and brick kilns. Even today, many families live in sheds or makeshift tents, without ration cards, caste certificates, or voter IDs, documents now essential to access the minimal entitlements of the welfare state.

These communities, known as Adivasis or Indigenous Peoples, have for centuries lived lives of mutual respect with the forest. They see land not as property but as a collective resource. In their worldview, land is a mother, animals are kin, and community is the centre of life. Their farming systems, such as shifting cultivation, do not harm the forest. No one individual held vast tracts of land; people cultivated only what they needed. Trees were not felled unless absolutely necessary, and even then, rituals were conducted to seek the forest's forgiveness.

Their societies are egalitarian, without caste or class hierarchies. Every person is considered equal; there is no "high" or "low", "rich" or "poor". Village leaders (Yajamana) are not kings or lords but ordinary members tasked with guidance. Decisions are taken collectively. Food, labour, land, and rituals are shared.

It is important to understand that Adivasis are not nomads. They are not wanderers. Their life rhythms are rooted in land and shaped by generations of interaction with forest ecosystems. This conflation of one community with another undermines the very foundations of the Adivasi identity.

Despite this civilisational wisdom and sustainable way of life, these communities have remained excluded from the mainstream. After independence, they were placed under the "Scheduled Tribes" category in government records but rarely treated as a distinct social or political entity. Their forests were taken over by State institutions. Forest laws criminalised their daily existence: their routine activities such as fishing, gathering, collecting firewood, even visiting ancestral sites were criminalised by wildlife and forest protection laws. As estates and development projects expanded, many were pushed out without resettlement.

Today, many Jenu Kuruba and Soliga work as migrant labourers in coffee estates, often in bonded conditions. Alcoholism is rising. Young people struggle to compete for education or employment without basic documents to prove their identity. Genetic illnesses like sickle cell anaemia and thalassemia, once rare, now appear frequently, worsened by poor access to nutrition and healthcare. Women and girls face additional vulnerabilities.

Recognise them, now

Adivasis in Karnataka are asking for one fundamental thing: recognition -- that their identity, knowledge, and way of life be seen as valid, dignified, and rooted in the forests they have nurtured for generations. There is both legal precedent and historical basis for this.

British-era records recognised them as "forest tribes". Karnataka government orders (e.g., GO No. SaKaE 179 SDC 2016) include them in the Scheduled Tribes list. Forest recruitment policies, research institutes, and even the Tribal Sub-Plan acknowledge them as distinct forest-dependent communities.

Yet, official declarations recognising them as Adivasis remain missing. Without this, many are denied even the basic protections guaranteed under the Constitution and forest rights legislation.

The Karnataka government must officially declare the forest-dependent ST communities as Adivasis or Moola Adivasis (Indigenous Peoples). They must ensure identity documents, land rights, and forest access are delivered without discrimination. Traditional knowledge systems must be recognised as valid and integrated into conservation planning. Exploitation in estates must end, and systemic barriers to healthcare and education dismantled.

We owe this not as charity or welfare, but as a long-overdue correction of historical injustice. Adivasis are not "backward"; they have been pushed back. They are not "vanishing"; they are being erased. But they are still here, living, resisting, and reminding us of a different, possible world: where the forest is sacred, not a commodity, and where dignity lies in harmony, not dominance.

Let us not wait another 25 years to correct the silence of the last 75.

(The writer is among Karnataka's first few Adivasi PhD scholars and is from the Iruliga Adivasi community)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

Jakarta warships on the move to troubled Timor

Jakarta, September 17
Several Indonesian warships are heading for the Timor Sea to reinforce its naval units following recent developments in the troubled Portuguese colony of Timor, official sources said here today. Several warships have been patrolling the Timor Sea around the clock since fighting broke out between the Leftist Fretilin and the moderate Timor Democratic Union (UDI) forces in Portuguese Timor last month.

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

Post-Pokhran, India's status has changed, says PM

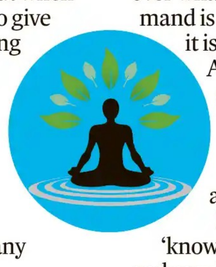
Washington, Sept 17 (UNI)
Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said today that India's status in the international community had changed after the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests and "there is now a repositioning of India in global and regional affairs."
In his address to a meeting of Indian Americans as well as in a statement issued at the end of his official visit to the US, Mr Vajpayee said India had now earned its rightful place in world affairs.

OASIS | CHANDER GUPTA

Knowing when to say 'no'

Are you the boss in the office or in a decision-making position? If you are the head of a unit in an organisation, you would have realised that it is not easy handling people – your colleagues, customers, and superiors. There are two words which can make your job successful – 'know' and 'no'. If you implement these two keywords in your job situation, you would be assured of some success.

You have to learn to say 'no'. It is much easier saying 'yes'. Application of thought is not required for saying 'yes' to someone's request or demand. If you say yes to people without resistance, the matter ends there. Once you have immediately acceded, you don't have to say anything else. But when you say 'no', you may have to give convincing reasons for saying 'no'. When you are saying 'no' to a person, you know you are disappointing him, annoying him, even antagonising him. So you hesitate to say 'no'.



Even if the request or demand warrants a 'no', many end up saying 'yes'.

How to deal with this situation? If you are in doubt, neither say 'yes' nor 'no' at once. Keep your decision in abeyance. Then take your time. Mull over what the request is, what the demand is. Then make up your mind. If it is a 'no', say 'no' with firmness. And give your reasons for saying no, if asked.

Ultimately it will be appreciated, if not by the concerned person, then by all others.

But for saying 'no', you must 'know'. You got to know the rules and regulations. You got to know your job, the instructions. Only if you have proper job knowledge can you say 'no' with confidence. You should be perceived as a person who knows why he says 'no'. The person who has little knowledge ends up saying yes when he should actually say no.

When you 'know', you take the right decision. If you are in a decision-making position, you will have to say yes or no. People with negative attitudes will say no when they should say yes. But what can be more hurtful is saying 'yes' when it should be 'no'. Most probably you say yes when you don't know. If you 'know', you can say 'no'. This dictum applies in all spheres of life. Know your mind to say 'no'.

'Jail a few': Top court to Centre on farmers burning stubble

Says it will send a strong message and act as a deterrent

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that if farmers continue to burn stubble, a major contributor to pollution in the Delhi-NCR region, then jailing a few offenders could send a strong message and serve as a deterrent.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai acknowledged the importance of farmers to the nation but said that stubble burning cannot be allowed to go unchecked.

The court suggested that stricter punitive measures may be necessary to discourage the practice.

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is among the main contributors to air pollution in the national capital in October and November every year.

The court was hearing petitions related to worsening air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region during the winter season.

The bench was informed that, to curb stubble burning, farmers had been provided subsidies and equipment. A counsel noted that the apex court has issued extensive orders on the matter since 2018, yet farmers continue to plead helplessness.

Responding to this, the bench asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, "Why don't you consider penalty provisions? If some people are sent behind bars, it will send the right message. If you truly intend to protect the environment, then why shy away?"

"Farmers are special, and we owe our food to them, but that doesn't mean we can't protect the environment," the SC said.

It questioned the Centre on why it hasn't considered introducing penal provisions for stubble burning.

Bhati responded that the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act includes such provisions, but the issue ultimately lies in implementation, and erring officers may face punishment.

To this, the SC said, "Forget about erring officers, why not consider penal provisions for agriculturists? Offer them a carrot, but keep a stick too."

"It is rarely a matter of national policy," she responded.

The counsel for the Punjab government said cases of stubble burning have declined over the past few years, and more progress is expected this year. Arresting small farmers could have serious consequences for their dependents.

The bench clarified that it was not advocating routine arrests, but stressed that a strong message must be sent.

Bhati, representing the Centre, requested the court to take up the matter next week after the submission of status reports.

Supreme Court cancels bail to gangster Chhota Rajan

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday cancelled the bail granted to gangster Chhota Rajan in the 2001 murder case of hotelier Jaya Shetty in Mumbai.

Chhota Rajan

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta allowed a plea by the CBI challenging an order passed by the Bombay High Court on October 23, 2024, suspending the life sentence of Rajan and granting him bail in the case.

The bench noted that for 27 years, Rajan had absconded. He was convicted in four cases.

Rajan's counsel argued it was a case of no evidence, and out of the 71 cases, the CBI did not find any material against Rajan in 47 cases.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, for the CBI, said the high court had suspended the life sentence awarded to Rajan in the case.

"Why suspension of sentence to such a man?" the bench said.

Rajan's counsel contended that he was acquitted in several cases.

"Your name itself is big enough," the bench said, after noting Rajan was already in judicial custody and was serving a sentence in another case.

HC orders Cong to remove AI video of Modi's mother

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Patna High Court on Wednesday directed the Congress to immediately remove the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated video featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's late mother Heeraben Modi from all social media platforms.

The directive was issued by the Acting Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, PB Baijanthri, while hearing a petition filed by one Vivekanand Singh.

The HC bench asked the Congress to take down the AI-generated video immediately as "it violates Article 21 which deals with the Right to Privacy and Human Dignity."

The Congress, which posted the AI-generated video last week on its X handle, portrayed the prime minister's mother appearing in Modi's dream and rebuking him for using her name in politics.

Although the Congress maintained that the video contained nothing disrespectful towards the PM's mother, the petitioner sought the immediate removal of the video from all social media platforms, as well as appropriate action against those responsible for posting it.

Further, the petitioner sought a public apology for spreading malicious propaganda intended to vitiate free and fair polls in Bihar.

"We welcome the Patna HC directive. The Congress should take a lesson from the order passed by the court. Its leader, who shouts from the rooftop that the Constitution is in danger, should introspect that it is this Constitution which has empowered the court to hold the party accountable if it goes astray," said JD(U) chief spokesperson and Nitish Kumar's key aide, Neeraj Kumar.

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister of State for Home Nityananda Rai also criticised the Congress and welcomed the HC order. "The Congress, under Rahul Gandhi, has stooped to a new low by insulting PM Modi's late mother," said the minister.

Railways warns zones of 'catastrophic' effects from damage to cables

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Railway Board has asked its zonal offices to exercise greater care while taking up infrastructure work, as damage to signal and telecommunication cables can pose a serious threat to safety and train operations.

The Board has written to zones after receiving complaints of cable cuts or damage while undertaking infrastructure works, leading to signal failures and disruption in train operations.

The Board said that all zones are "undertaking large-scale infrastructure, safety and reliability enhancement works such as doubling, yard remodelling, construction of boundary walls, LHS (Limited Height Subway), ABS (Automatic Block Signalling), Kavach, etc".

During the execution of these works, incidents of cable cuts or damage are being reported frequently, it said.

"Such repeated signal failures due to cable damage pose a serious threat to the safety and reliability of train services and could lead to catastrophic consequences if adequate precautions are not taken," the letter read.

The letter has suggested several steps to prevent damage to signal and telecommunication cables, such as utility shifting before commencing digging work, proper coordination between various departments before undertaking any work near or along the track, and ensuring the provision of integrated Cable Route Plans, which have already been circulated to all zones.

The Board said that safety instructions have been issued to zones regularly for protecting the signal and telecommunication cables along the railway tracks; however, "cases of cable cut/damage continue to be reported frequently".

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HA! REMEMBER WHEN WE COULD ONLY USE CASH IN THE SNACK MACHINES?
YEAH, HOW PRIMITIVE! HA! HA!
NOW WE CAN USE CREDIT, DEBIT AND EVEN APPLE PAY!!
I GUESS NOW THERE MIGHT BE A TEMPTATION TO BUY TOO MANY SNACKS!
TOO MANY???

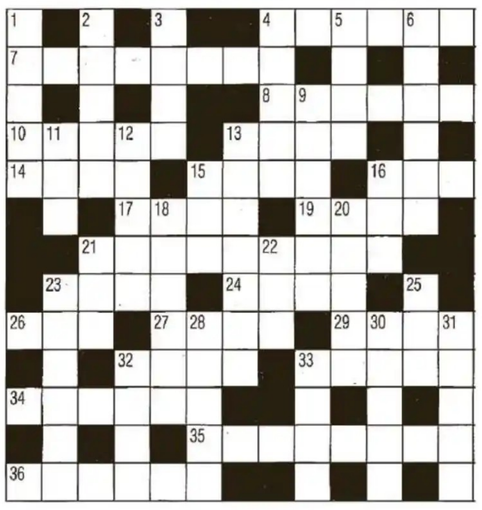
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12249



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Possibly faster in attack (6)
7 Noticeably more than damp coat (3,5)
8 Female deadlier than the male (6)
10 Move freely, being a drifter? (5)
13 Study with Steve (4)
14 Thanks for the £50 - it's incredible! (4)
15 Inform of a great struggle on the way (4)
16 Had something for tea, perhaps (3)
17 To cry a lot makes a big noise (4)
19 Can they be past turning? (4)
21 It's not much to ask (4,5)
23 Pool bringing pleasure to many (4)
24 Innkeeper in the army? (4)
26 Check that the optics are working (3)
27 Could such a lamp put a candle out? (4)
29 Start being candid (4)
32 There's sympathy for such a fellow (4)
33 Feel uncertain (5)
34 Mixes Chinese sauce with everything! (6)
35 A great trumpeter (8)
36 Decent support at the weaker end (6)

DOWN
1 Flier and author (5)
2 At a sitting, don't expect one to back you up (5)
3 Some ship astern has to be behind you! (4)
4 Somehow sat on the Rolls with Ringo (5)
5 Go about gathering a piece of information (4)
6 Winter's disappointments? (6)
9 Devout looking creature making a chap sit up (6)
11 It's broken in Wales, but not in Bulawayo (3)
12 Saintly fellow to bar (5)
13 Temporary quarters right behind the house, a bit smelly (7)
15 In misery, we conceal nothing (3)
16 Copy out of a cheap edition (3)
18 So you've left school, dear chap! (3,3)
20 For him, a part in a play is a piece of work (5)
21 Not quite a fat lady (3)
22 Line of work, albeit backward? (3)
23 It's touchingly tentative (6)
25 In Europe, initially, a parliamentarian (3)
28 He can't keep changing roles! (5)
30 To turn up in such regions could be popular! (5)
31 Little creatures making stew for a motherless man (5)
32 Clearly a raised sort of deck? (4)
33 Look aghast at the torn page! (4)

ACROSS
4 Typewriter user (6)
7 Throw this at weddings (8)
8 Counting device (6)
10 Wall painting (5)
13 A salver (4)
14 Poke (4)
15 Chinwag (4)
16 Mimic (3)
17 Woodwind instrument (4)
19 Rowing blades (4)
21 Pleasant or sweet odour (9)
23 Ruminant mammal (4)
24 Thin fog (4)
26 Not high (3)
27 Streetcar (4)
29 Egg-shaped (4)
32 Genuine (4)
33 Group of lions (5)
34 Monthly pay (6)
35 Friendly, sociable (8)
36 Motive (6)

DOWN
1 Rascal (5)
2 Introduction, in short (5)
3 Shoe part (4)
4 Jewelled headdress (5)
5 A drama (4)
6 Drinks noisily (6)
9 Truncheons (6)
11 Vase (3)
12 Love deeply (5)
13 Hot or warm (7)
15 Toothed wheel (3)
16 Land measure (3)
18 Bargain (6)
20 Theatrical performer (5)
21 Hardly any (3)
22 Point a weapon (3)
23 Give to charity (6)
25 Wicked (3)
28 Synthetic fibre (5)
30 All-night watch (5)
31 Narrow shelf-like part (5)
32 Sewer rodents (4)
33 Leaf of a book (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12248

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Bumble 7, DI's-patch 8, Pi-NG 10, F-rid-ay 11, W-il-ton 14, E.g.-G 16, Ni-e-ce 17,Tore 19,Tin-ge 21, M-one-y 22, Ai-me-d 23, Bond 26,Tears 28, Lad 29, Adders 30, For-Est 31, Ewer 32, Good time 33, Styled.
DOWN: 1, Buffet 2, Bridge 3, Edgy 4, Sp-ring-y 5, State 6, Sh-in-e 8, Pier 9, Nag 12, Lie 13, Ocean 15, Liner 18, Op.-Ted 19,Tom 20, Ne-D 21, Misrate 22, Are 23, Barely 24, O-der 25, Dotted 26,Tango 27, Adi-O-s 28, L-ow 30, Fe-es.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Chisel 7, Approach 8, Bias 10, Church 11, Ritual 14, Get 16, Solid 17, Else 19, Foyer 21, River 22, Vixen 23,Teem 26, Avoid 28, Lay 29, Parade 30, Silent 31,Tees 32, Crane fly 33, Either.
DOWN: 1, Chicle 2, Soiree 3, Lash 4, Cruiser 5, Kabul 6, Child 8, Bugs 9, Act 12,Tor 13, Aisle 15, Hover 18, Larva 19, Fix 20, Yen 21, Riddles 22, Via 23,Talent 24, Eyes 25, Mother 26, Apace 27, Organ 28, Lie 30, Stye.

◆SU-DO-KU-6704◆

	2							3
		7	8	2				9
					9			6
		3		5	2		9	
	1	4				5	8	
	9		4	6		3		
7			2					
3				7	4	1		
1							4	

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6703

5	3	4	8	9	6	7	2	1
8	9	2	4	7	1	5	6	3
7	6	1	2	3	5	4	8	9
1	7	8	9	6	4	3	5	2
3	2	6	5	1	7	8	9	4
4	5	9	3	8	2	1	7	6
6	1	3	7	5	9	2	4	8
9	4	5	1	2	8	6	3	7
2	8	7	6	4	3	9	1	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2024 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

D2	B3	A1	L1	R1	E1	S1	4th Letter Double	RACK 1
T1	F4	F4	C3	E1	A1	C3		RACK 2
E1	I1	D2	U1	G2	U1	A1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
I1	I1	R1	X8	T1	F4	Y4	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 100-110
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

V4 I1 C3 T1 O1 R1	RACK 1 =	11
A1 N1 E1 A1 R1	RACK 2 =	15
P3 R1 O1 N1 O1 U1 N1	RACK 3 =	59
W4 I1 T1 H4 E1 R1 S1	RACK 4 =	71
PAR SCORE 105-115	JUDD'S TOTAL	156

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

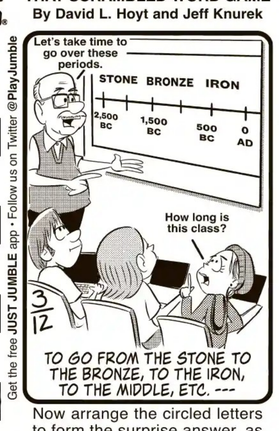
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUDHO

EKIRS

ENOYAN

NSISTI



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUDDY ADAGE GERBIL ZIPPER
Answer: Her mother agreed with her that studying hard to get an "A" on the test was a — "GRADE" IDEA

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

HITORI-3158

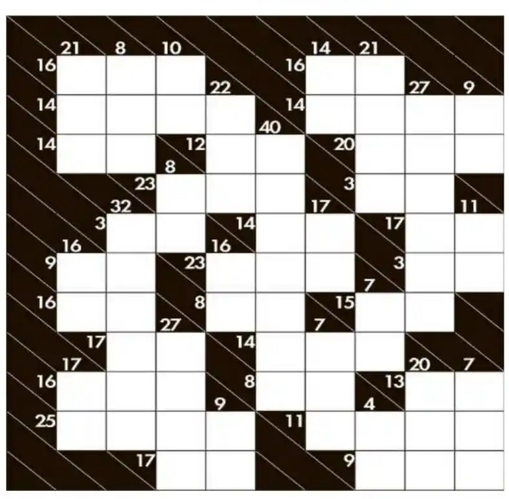
6	8	2	3	4	5	3	1
5	2	1	6	1	4	1	7
3	6	5	1	7	1	5	8
1	4	1	2	1	7	3	6
8	1	3	1	2	1	7	5
5	5	1	8	4	6	4	1
4	1	7	5	6	3	4	2
4	7	1	1	5	8	6	3

SOLUTION TO 3157

■	4	2	3	■	8	7	■
4	3	5	■	1	6	8	7
3	2	■	8	7	4	■	6
7	6	4	■	2	5	3	8
1	■	3	2	■	7	6	5
2	7	■	5	6	3	■	1
6	■	7	4	3	■	5	2
■	8	6	■	5	2	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3158



SOLUTION TO 3157

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3680

9				4			8	
				7	2	9		
	3				5		4	
	2				6			
	5							6
2	6				9	7		
								8
	7		8			4		2

SOLUTION TO 3679

7	6	9	2	5	8	1	3	4
1	2	3	6	4	7	9	8	5
4	5	8	9	3	1	7	2	6
5	8	4	3	7	6	2	9	1
2	3	6	8	1	9	5	4	7
9	7	1	5	2	4	3	6	8
8	4	2	7	9	5	6	1	3
6	9	7	1	8	3	4	5	2
3	1	5	4	6	2	8	7	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

SC: Defaulting borrowers can't demand one-time settlement as a right

Says no court can, by issuing a writ of mandamus, direct bank to grant such benefit

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said a defaulting borrower is not entitled to banks' one-time settlement (OTS) scheme if it has not satisfied all their stipulations, including upfront payment.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih said no court could, by issuing a writ of mandamus, direct a secured creditor (bank) to grant the benefit of OTS to a defaulting borrower because it is always subject to eligibility criteria.

"This principle of law may not have any direct application in a case where it is merely a reconsideration that the high court has directed and there is no positive direction for granting an OTS," said the bench.

Allowing a State Bank of India (SBI) appeal against the Andhra Pradesh HC's judgments, the bench said respondent Tanya Energy Enterprises, which faced a demand notice of Rs 7 crore and proceedings under the SARFAESI Act, disabled itself from having a fair and objective consideration of its OTS application due to its conduct.

"We did not find the respondent, while applying for the benefit of the OTS 2020 Scheme, to have deposited a single paisa towards upfront payment," said the bench in its judgment on September 16.

The court permitted the bank to proceed in accordance with the law to enforce the security interest. It, however, granted the respondent an opportunity to submit a fresh proposal for OTS, but not under the OTS 2020 Scheme.

Considering the appeal, the court said, "Crossing the hurdle of eligibility per se would not entitle a defaulting borrower to claim consideration of his/its application unless the application itself satisfies the other stipulated conditions."

The court noted that under Clause 4(i) of the OTS 2020 Scheme, any application received without an upfront payment was not required to be processed.

Thus, in the first place, the respondent's application was incomplete, and it did not have any right to claim that such an application should be processed, said the bench.

"It is clear as a sunny day that an application for availing the benefit thereunder would be processed if such applications were accompanied by an upfront payment of 5% of the outstanding dues."

Though the bank did not mention the non-payment of the upfront amount in the rejection letter, it was fundamental to the case and struck at the heart of the matter. This fully justified the conclusion that the respondent, by its own conduct, did not and does not deserve to be extended OTS benefit, said the court.

Former Hurriyat chief Abdul Gani Bhat dead

SRINAGAR, PTI: Former Hurriyat Conference chairman Abdul Gani Bhat, who was seen as a moderate among the separatist leadership, died at his Sopore residence on Wednesday. He was 90.

Bhat, who was largely confined to his residence at Sopore in Baramulla district due to ill health over past few years, breathed his last this evening, Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said.

At the peak of militancy in Kashmir, Bhat was seen as a peacenik among separatist hawks like Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Masarat Alam, advocating dialogue with New Delhi for resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Bhat played a key role in getting the Hurriyat Conference to enter into talks with the Centre during the the NDA government led by Atal Behari Vajpayee and later with the UPA government.

Bhat was the last chairman of the undivided Hurriyat Conference as the decision to hold talks with the Centre had led to vertical split in the multi-party amalgam.

The former Hurriyat chairman had expressed his resentment to use of gun for achieving political objectives. He also expressed his dislike for frequent and prolonged shutdowns in Kashmir. While both Geelani and Bhat hailed from Sopore, the latter was seen as a suave politician who could navigate rough waters with consummate ease.

Born in 1935 at Botengoo in Sopore town, Bhat graduated from Sri Pratap College in Srinagar in Persian studies. He went on to obtain post graduate degrees in Persian and a Law degree from Aligarh Muslim University.

Bhat initially practised law in Sopore before being appointed as professor or Persian in Government College at Poonch in 1963.

He remained in government service till 1986 till his dismissal from service on security grounds.

Bhat joined politics in 1986 and co-founded Muslim United Front (MUF), a right leaning amalgam of parties spearheaded by Jamaat-e-Islami.

The shrewd politician revived Muslim Conference in Jammu and Kashmir which became an important constituent of Hurriyat Conference when the amalgam was formed in 1993.

SC grants minor son's custody to father, slams mother's conduct

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has handed over interim custody of a minor boy to his father, while deprecating the conduct of the mother for keeping her husband, as well as the courts in the United Kingdom and India, in the dark about the child's location.

A bench deprecated the woman's conduct, holding she never intended the child to meet his father and to honour the court orders. "The judicial system in India as well as the UK had been taken for a ride by the mother," it said.

The court found that the entire whirlpool of litigation has been set into motion by the parents, who got married in 2010, wherein the children are being pulled in.

It ordered for handing over the custody of the six-year-old child to the father, a resident of Noida. It also directed for initiation of proceedings under the Guardians and Wards Act, for the child's custody before a competent court. "The case reflects a deep-rooted conflict between the mother and father, arising from their divergent intentions regarding staying together and raising their children in India."

The court noted the wife left for the UK with the daughter in 2021, leaving the son with the maternal grandparents in Sonipat.

The court said that where the mother is staying in London and the son is staying with grandparents, despite the availability of the father, who has sufficient means of sustenance to undertake the well-being of the child, the best interest of the child needs to be ascertained. Both parties seek divorce, but they refuse to accept the decrees granted by courts in different jurisdictions, the SC said.

India ready to help end Ukraine war: Modi to Putin

Thanks Russian Prez for bday wishes, affirms friendship

NEW DELHI, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday conveyed to Russian President Vladimir Putin that India is ready to make all possible contributions towards a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict.

PM Narendra Modi with President Vladimir Putin

Modi conveyed this during a phone conversation with Putin, who called to greet him on his 75th birthday. It was their third phone call since early August.

"Thank you, my friend, President Putin, for your phone call and warm wishes on my 75th birthday," Modi posted on X. "We are committed to further strengthening our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. India is ready to make all possible contributions towards a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict."

Putin, in his remarks, praised India's progress under Modi's leadership, saying the country had achieved "impressive results" in social, economic, scientific, and technological spheres. A Russian readout also noted Modi's "great personal contribution" to strengthening India-Russia ties and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation.

An Indian statement said the leaders reviewed the trajectory of bilateral relations and discussed regional and international issues, including the Ukraine war. Modi expressed appreciation for Putin's birthday wishes and the enduring friendship between the two countries.

Modi also told Putin he looks forward to welcoming him to India later this year for the annual India-Russia summit.

A day earlier, Modi had also spoken with U.S. President Donald Trump and reiterated India's support for peaceful efforts to end the Ukraine conflict.

India has consistently maintained that diplomacy and dialogue are the only viable paths to resolving the ongoing war in Ukraine.

2 gunned down in Disha Patani house firing case

NEW DELHI, PTI: Two active members of the Rohit Godara-Goldy Brar gang, allegedly involved in firing outside actor Disha Patani's residence in Bareilly, were shot dead in an encounter near Tronica City in Ghaziabad on Wednesday, officials said.

The encounter was carried out in a joint operation by Delhi Police Special Cell, Uttar Pradesh STF and Haryana STF, they said.

The deceased were identified as Ravinder, resident of Haryana's Rohtak and Arun from Haryana's Sonipat, they said.

A senior officer of the Haryana STF confirmed that both were shot dead and a personnel of Special Cell also sustained injuries during the encounter.

"The duo had a direct role in the Bareilly firing case, which had sparked security concerns around high-profile personalities. The incident was suspected to be an intimidation tactic linked to extortion," an officer of Delhi Police Special Cell said.

Senior officers said further investigation is underway to trace other gang members who remain absconding. Unidentified assailants had fired multiple rounds outside Patani's Bareilly residence around 3.45 am on September 12, creating panic in the locality.

Rescue personnel and locals salvage remains after a cloudburst following heavy rain in the Sahastradhara region of Dehradun on Wednesday. AFP

Uttarakhand cloudburst, rain toll reaches 21

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The death toll in the cloudburst near Sahastradhara and rain-related incidents in Uttarakhand on Monday night and early Tuesday morning rose to 21 with the recovery of more bodies, even as 14 people were reportedly missing.

According to local reports, the popular tourist destinations of Mussoorie and Sahastradhara were still cut off from Dehradun owing to the widespread damage caused to the roads by landslides at several places.

Reports said two bodies were recovered from the Song river in the Raipur area on Wednesday, while one body was recovered from the Asan river.

Six people were reportedly trapped in the debris in the Phulet village near Sahastradhara, with SDRF and police teams having launched operations to rescue them.

Local reports also said residents of the affected villages of Majada, Cahamsari, and Jamada left for safer places on foot after the Sahastradhara cloudburst. The administration was trying to provide them with food and other relief materials.

Heavy rain and cloudbursts wreaked havoc in Dehradun and its surrounding areas in the state early on Tuesday morning. Torrential rain caused widespread damage in the Garhwal region, affecting roads, bridges, hotels, and shops, and severely disrupting traffic movement in several districts.

The police said seven devotees from Madhya Pradesh were injured while one was missing after their vehicle overturned near Marwadi on the Badrinath Highway on Wednesday. Two of the injured were stated to be in critical condition.

Residents recalled the horror after the cloudburst near Sahastradhara and said they barely got time to run to safety. They said they blew whistles and warned others. "All we could hear was shouts and cries of the people," said a resident of the Majada village.

The state government has launched a massive relief and rescue operation in the affected villages, and also opened roads to enable vehicles carrying milk and other products to reach them.

Vaishno Devi yatra resumes 22 days after deadly landslide

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The pilgrimage to the holy Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills resumed on Wednesday, 22 days after a devastating landslide struck the pilgrimage route in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, killing 34 people and injuring 20 others.

The yatra had been suspended on August 26 after relentless rainfall triggered the disaster—one of the deadliest incidents in the shrine's history—prompting authorities to halt the pilgrimage and carry out urgent safety and maintenance measures along the track.

Officials of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) said the pilgrimage resumed at 6 am on Wednesday.

Hundreds of devotees, many of whom had been waiting in Katra—the base camp—since the suspension, thronged the Banganga Darshani Gate, the starting point of the yatra, to begin their journey to the hilltop shrine.

"The resumption of the yatra is a matter of faith and relief for lakhs of devotees. Necessary maintenance and safety measures have been completed on the tracks," an SMVDSB official said.

The shrine is one of the most visited religious destinations in India, attracting nearly one crore pilgrims annually.

7 of family killed in AP accident

NELLORE, PTI: Seven members of a family were killed in truck-car collision in Andhra's Nellore district on Wednesday, police said.

The incident occurred near Sangam mandal when the truck coming in the opposite direction crashed into the car, killing seven on the spot.

According to police, the victims were from Nellore town and were on their way to Atmakur government hospital to visit relatives.

BJP kickstarts month-long celebrations of Modi's birthday

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Thursday kickstarted the month-long celebrations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday with a host of programmes countrywide.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched 17 projects and schemes of the Delhi government worth Rs 1,723 crore.

Additionally, all MPs have been asked to carry out programmes in their constituencies.

In Madhya Pradesh, the PM transferred money under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana to 10 lakh eligible women at a function at Dhar's Bainsola.

In Maharashtra, the BJP is carrying out 1 lakh cataract surgeries by October 2, and in Odisha, 75 lakh saplings are to be planted.

The party in general has a two-week-long "Sewa Pakhwada" and blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, exhibitions, and public discussions in the pipeline in BJP-ruled states.

King Charles gifts Kadamb tree to PM

Britain's King Charles III sent a Kadamb tree as a birthday gift to PM Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday. In a gesture inspired by Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" environmental initiative, the British High Commission revealed that the tree sampling reflects their shared commitment to environmental conservation.

Dubai's Burj Khalifa dazzles with greetings

Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, lit up in the Indian tricolour on Wednesday, displaying photographs of the PM along with greetings. The iconic skyscraper showcased multiple images of Modi along with messages such as "Happy Birthday", "75 Years", "Service is the Resolve" and "India First the Inspiration".

DMK scion in spotlight: Inban Udhayanidhi's presence at TN govt event sparks buzz

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

At a grand event organised by the Tamil Nadu government to felicitate music maestro Ilaiyaraaja for his symphony performance last week, a 20-year-old seated in the front row, along with Tamil cinema legends Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, was hard to miss.

It was Inban Udhayanidhi, son of Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and grandson of Chief Minister MK Stalin.

His prominent presence came shortly after the young scion of the M Karunanidhi clan took over as the CEO of Red Giant Movies, the influential production house with a vast distribution network owned by the first family.

Inban will oversee the businesses run by his father Udhayanidhi, until the latter was sworn in as a minister in the DMK government in December 2022.

The football player, signed by Indian club Neroca as a defender, is slowly being launched in the family business, if not politics just yet.

He will become the first member from the fourth generation of the DMK's first family to be pushed into the spotlight.

Future leader

While his great-grandfather Karunanidhi was a five-time chief minister, his grandfather Stalin is the incumbent CM, and his father Udhayanidhi is not just the Deputy CM, but is being groomed as the future leader of the DMK.

Though Inban, whose mother Kiruthiga is a filmmaker, has made public appearances before, including at the DMK youth wing conference in 2024, this is the first time the 20-year-old was given prominence at a government event.

His presence sparked criticism on social media. Many took objection to how a person not even remotely connected with the government was allowed to sit in the front row along with legends.

Inban's entry into tinsel town mirrors his father Udhayanidhi's cinematic foray in 2008, when he launched Red Giant Movies during the 2006–2011 tenure of Karunanidhi. The production house enjoys near-monopoly status in Tamil Nadu's film distribution.

"Inban Udhayanidhi's appointment as CEO is a purely business decision and has nothing to do with the DMK. It is a private business, and they have the right to make their own decisions," a source in the DMK told *DH*.

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development, Ports & Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
Office of the Marine Engineer, Baithkhol, Karwar- 581302
NO.ME/GNL/CR-02/2025-26 Dated:16.09.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Rates Quotations in e-procurement (KPPP Portal) are invited by the undersigned from the reputed, bonafide, resourceful & experienced firms/contractors/manufacturers who are having similar nature of work experience for the details mentioned below for **"Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of additional Oil Spill Response Equipments as per NOSDCP – 2015 (03/2018 Cat – B) at Karwar Port, U.K District, Karnataka"**

Sl. No.	Description of the Work	Qty	Unit	Rate Excluding GST	
				Figures	words
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of additional Oil Spill Response Equipments as per NOSDCP – 2015 (03/2018 Cat – B) at Karwar Port, U.K District, Karnataka The detail specification provided in Appendix-X	Refer KPPP e-Portal			

Submit your completed finished rates, excluding of GST and inclusive of all applicable taxes, prevailing at the time of your quotation to the undersigned before **24.09.2025**. This quotation rates are purely **for preparation of estimate /budgetary purpose only.**

The detail specification of required OSR items provided in **Appendix-X**. Please go through the same before submitting your quotation.

For any further information please contact the following address.

(1) E-mail: marineengineerkwr@gmail.com
(2) Phone No.: 08382-221402
(3) Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/500/25-26 dt. 17.09.2025

Sd/- Marine Engineer, Karwar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526 PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com

No:BMCRC/SUP/TENDER/DXRF/04 /2025-26/298
Date:15.09.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Digital X-ray Films to BMCRC, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before 29.09.2025 up to 5.00 PM. The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.139.80 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.vims.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/458/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪರಿಶೋಧನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ನಂ.17, ಜಯನಿವಾಸ, ಶಂಕರಮಠ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಸವನಗುಡಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560004
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–26610610 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: adca-act-ka@nic.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DOCA/2025-26/SE0002/CALL-2 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–09–2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್

ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪರಿಶೋಧನಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ವಾಹನ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ವಾಹನಚಾಲಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ವಿವರ

Date of Publishing tender documentation in the e-Procurement Website	Date: 17.09.2025
Pre-Bid Meeting	Date: 23.09.2025 Time:11.30 AM
Bid due Date for Submission of Bids in the e-Procurement Website	Date: 16.10.2025 Time: 5.30 PM
Date and Time for Opening of the Technical Bid	Date: 18.10.2025 Time: 2.30 PM
Date and Time for Opening of the Financial Bid	Date: 27.10.2025 Time: 11.30 AM

ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮೂಲ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://sahakaradarpana.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು. ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪರಿಶೋಧನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
(ಆಡಳಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ)
ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

DIPR/CP/2860/
SPAN COM/2025-26

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-17) LAC.No.29/2022

Between:
Sri Muniswamy and others
Claimants
And
The Spl.LAO. BDA
Respondents

NOTICE/SUMMONCE TO THE CLAIMANT NO.1 TO 10 U/O. 5 RULE 20 OF CPC

1. Muniswamy S/o. Narasappa,
2. Muniswamy S/o. Papaiah,
3. Rajappa S/o. Muniswamy,
4. Papaiah S/o. Mathigeerappa,
5. Ramanna S/o. Papaiah,
6. P. Ramanna,
7. Muniyappa S/o. Basappa,

Claimants 1 to 7 are resident of Ejipura Village, Beguru Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru,

8. Narinder Pal Bhatha, Shankara Nilaya, No.258, Vivekanagar, Bengaluru-47
9. P.M. Poonacha, No.11, Red Cross, House Kelington, Bengaluru-42
10. E.Mubarak Ahmed, No.5, E-Street, Neelasandra, Bengaluru-47.

WHEREAS, The Above case in referred by the Respondent U/s. 18, 30, 31(2) of Land Acquisition Act 1894 in respect of land acquired to the extent of 0-33 guntas of land in Sy.No.11/5 of Ejipura Village, Beguru Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru and deposited the compensation amount.

The above case has been posted on 16.10.2025 at about 11. A.M. The Claimants No.1 to 10 you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or through Counsel on the aforementioned date. If you fail to appear the case will be decided ex-parte.

Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on 28th day August 2025.

By the order of the Hon'ble Court
Senior Sheristedar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Respondent:
Mari Gowda,
Advodate,
II Floor, Ooliga Complex, Near 8th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-03.

Trump feted with pomp on second UK state visit

US, UK to welcome billions of pounds in new investment in their economies

WINDSOR, AFP

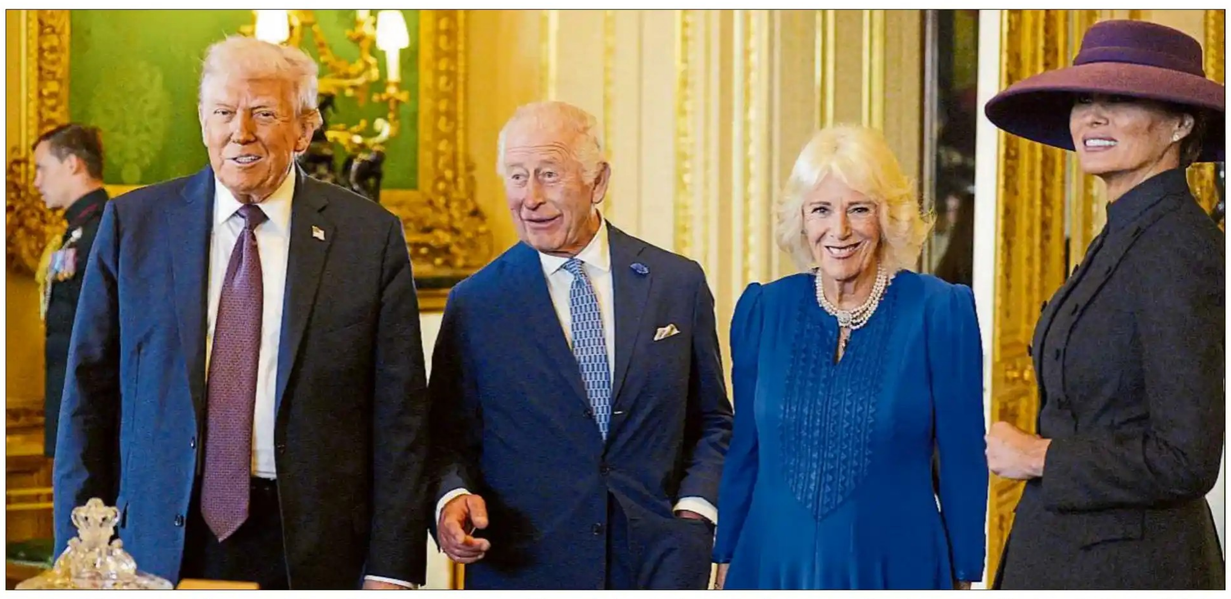
US President Donald Trump was treated to a royal reception with gun salutes, soldiers on horseback and bagpipes as he met on Wednesday with Britain's King Charles III for a historic second state visit, staged far from marching protesters.

The pair laughed and joked as Trump inspected troops at Windsor Castle, west of London, in an elaborate spectacle featuring a carriage procession designed to appeal to the mercurial American leader's love of pomp and pageantry.

Some 120 horses and 1,300 members of the British military — many in red tunics and gold-plumed helmets — honoured Trump during a ceremonial guard of honour that UK officials described as the largest for a state visit in living memory. The president and First Lady Melania Trump were welcomed by heir-to-the-throne Prince William and his wife Catherine at Windsor, after stepping off the Marine One helicopter under grey skies at 12:15 pm (1115 GMT).

Behind a ring of steel and away from thousands of demonstrators shouting anti-Trump slogans in London, William and Catherine escorted the Trumps a short distance to meet the waiting Charles and Queen Camilla.

As the president shook hands with the king, a 41-gun salute was fired simultaneously from six World War One-era guns on the castle's east lawn, mirrored by another display at the Tower of London in the capital's centre.



US President Donald Trump, King Charles, Queen Camilla and First Lady Melania Trump view items on display during a visit to the Royal Collection exhibition at the Windsor Castle in Berkshire on Wednesday. REUTERS

Protesters hold a banner at a 'Trump Not Welcome' protest event in London on Wednesday. REUTERS

The Trumps and the royals were then taken in a black and gold coach, surrounded by mounted cavalry, through the Windsor estate towards the nearly 1,000-year-old castle, where Trump and Charles inspected the guard of honour.

The pair were seen smiling together, and the president saluted as the US national anthem played, before the royals and their guests headed inside for lunch. They exchanged gifts, with the royals presenting Trump a book to mark next year's 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence, while Trump gifted Charles a replica of a President Dwight Eisenhower sword.

Britain pulled out all the stops to dazzle and flatter the unpredictable Trump as the UK government seeks to keep him onside during a host of international crises. The 79-year-old Republican remains unpopular with the British public, with the entire visit taking place behind closed doors.

An estimated 3,000 people marched through central London on Wednesday, waving Palestinian flags and displaying banners with slogans including "Migrants welcome, Trump not welcome". "I'm just scared of the way the world's being taken over by really nasty men," said Jo Williamson, a 58-year-old funeral director from Kent, southeast England. Trump is the first US president to be granted two state visits, following his previous one with Queen Elizabeth II in 2019.

At Windsor, he laid a wreath on the tomb of Charles's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, who died in 2022, and viewed US-related items, including a letter from President Abraham Lincoln to Queen Victoria in 1862 after Prince Albert's death.

The president and Charles are due to end Wednesday with a white-tie state banquet, where both will deliver speeches. Trump's unpredictability on issues ranging from tariffs to Ukraine and Gaza has caused global unease, and Prime Minister Keir Starmer will be hoping the president departs on Thursday feeling the glow of royal soft power — but there are no guarantees.

Starmer will host Trump on Thursday at his country residence, Chequers. Both leaders will welcome billions of pounds of new investment in their economies, including from British pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline and tech company Google.

Ukraine expects $3.5 billion fund for US weapons under new plan

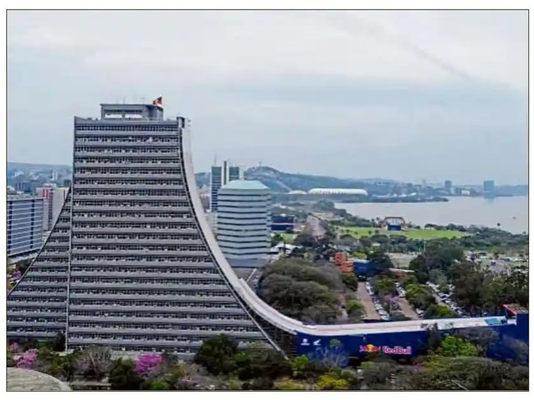
KYIV, AP/PTI: Ukraine expects there will be around $3.5 billion by next month in a fund to buy weapons from the United States and help sustain its more than three-year fight against Russia's all-out invasion, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday.

The financial arrangement known as the Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List, or PURL, pools contributions from NATO members, except the United States, to purchase American weapons, munitions and equipment. "We received more than $2 billion from our partners specifically for the PURL programme," Zelenskyy said at a joint news conference in Kyiv with visiting European Parliament President Roberta Metsola. "We will receive additional money in October. I think we will have somewhere around $3.5-3.6 billion."

Zelenskyy declined to provide details of what weapons the first shipments would include, but said that they would definitely contain missiles for Patriot air defence missile systems and munitions for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS. An end to the war appears no closer, despite months of US-led peace efforts. The Patriot systems are vital to defend against Russian missile attacks. The HIMARS systems have significantly bolstered the Ukrainian military's precision-strike capability.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reaffirmed Russia's readiness for peace talks, telling reporters on Wednesday that "we remain open for negotiations and prefer to settle the Ukrainian crisis by political and diplomatic means".

WORLD AT A GLANCE



A mega ramp is installed on the Fernando Ferrari Administrative Center building where Brazilian skateboarder Sandro Dias will attempt to set a world record by descending the 85-metre structure. REUTERS

Supply delivery to ISS delayed over Northrop Grumman engine

▶ A newly launched supply ship has run into engine trouble that is preventing it from reaching the International Space Station, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral (US).

Northrop Grumman's capsule rocketed into orbit on Sunday from Florida aboard SpaceX. But less than two days later, the capsule's main engine shut down prematurely while trying to boost its orbit. The Cygnus capsule was supposed to dock on Wednesday, delivering more than 5,000 kg of cargo. But Nasa said everything is on hold while flight controllers consider an alternate plan. This marked the debut of Northrop Grumman's newest, extra large model, known as Cygnus XL, capable of ferrying a much bigger load. The shipment includes food and science experiments for the seven residents, as well as spare parts for the toilet and other systems. Northrop Grumman is one of NASA's two cargo suppliers to the space station. The other is SpaceX. Russia also provides regular shipments to the 420-km-high orbiting lab, with the latest delivery arriving over the weekend.

Navalny was poisoned: Report

▶ The widow of Alexei Navalny said Wednesday that two independent labs have found that her husband was poisoned shortly before his death in a Russian prison, AP/PTI reports from Moscow.

Navalny, who crusaded against official corruption and staged massive anti-Kremlin protests as President Vladimir Putin's fiercest foe, died in the Arctic penal colony in February 2024. He was serving a 19-year sentence that he believed to be politically motivated. Authorities said that the politician became ill after a walk but have otherwise given few details on his death. He was 47. In a video released Wednesday, Yulia said that biological samples from Navalny's body had been taken out of Russia and tested at two laboratories abroad.

A medical staff member works on her client at a 'secret' cosmetic surgery clinic in Kabul. Despite the austerity of Taliban rule, Botox, lip fillers and hair transplants remain popular in the capital. AFP FILE

ISI holding military trial: Imran

▶ Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday alleged that he is facing a military trial in jail as it's not being conducted by a civilian judge but by an ISI officer, who takes instructions directly from Army Chief Asim Munir, PTI reports from Lahore.

The 72-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician has been in jail for over two years in multiple cases. He is currently lodged in the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. "My so-called trial in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, is not being conducted by a judge but by an ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) Colonel, who takes instructions directly from Army Chief Gen Asim Munir. This is a military trial, not a civilian one," Khan said in a post on X on Wednesday.

Man rams car into FBI building

▶ A suspect has been taken into custody after a driver rammed a car into a security gate at the FBI building in Pittsburgh early Wednesday, then removed an American flag from the back seat and threw it over the gate before leaving, AP/PTI reports from Pittsburgh.

FBI spokesperson Bradford Arick said the man was taken into custody after 10 am. No other details were available. The car crashed into the gate at about 2:40 am. Investigators, including a bomb squad, were called to the scene. No explosives were found, the FBI said. "We look at this as an act of terror against the FBI," Christopher Giordano, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI in Pittsburgh, told reporters.

Israeli troops press forward into Gaza City

Aid groups, Qatar condemn Israeli offensive amid famine fears

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI

The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war crossed 65,000 on Wednesday, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, as Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza City and residents fled the devastated area.

Israel's military said air force and artillery units had struck the city over 150 times in recent days, ahead of ground forces moving in. The strikes toppled high-rise towers in areas densely packed with tent camps sheltering thousands of Palestinians. Israel claimed the towers were being used by Hamas to surveil troops.

Overnight strikes killed at least 16 people, including women and children, hospital officials reported. The death count in Gaza reached 65,062, with another 165,697 wounded since Hamas' 7 October 2023 attack, the Health Ministry said. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government.

Palestinians flee northern Gaza due to an Israeli military operation on Wednesday. REUTERS

Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced about 90% of the population, and created a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts declaring famine in Gaza City. The ministry does not specify how many of the dead were civilians or militants. Its figures are regarded by the UN and many independent experts as a reliable estimate.

Meanwhile, Palestinians streamed out of Gaza City — some by car, others on foot. Israel opened another corridor south of the city for two days beginning Wednesday to allow more people to evacuate. More than half of those killed in overnight strikes were in famine-stricken Gaza City, including a child and his mother who died in their apartment in the Shati refugee camp, Shifa Hospital officials said.

In central Gaza, Al-Awda Hospital reported that an Israeli strike hit a house in the crowded Nuseirat refugee camp, killing three people, including a pregnant woman. Two parents and their child were killed when a strike hit their tent in the Muwasi area west of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were taken.

Iran executes man accused of spying for Israel

DUBAI, AP/PTI: Iran said Wednesday it executed a man it alleges spied for Israel, something disputed by activists who say he was tortured into a false confession.

The judiciary's Mizan news agency identified the executed man as Babak Shahbazi, who it claimed had gathered and sold sensitive information about Iranian data centres and security installations to Israeli handlers.

Activists, however, said Shahbazi was detained over writing a letter to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy offering his help.

Iran has supplied Russia with drones that Moscow has used to attack Ukraine.

The group Iran Human Rights had warned Shahbazi could be executed.

"Babak's message to President Zelenskyy offering to help in the war against Russia was used as an example of espionage for Israel who they claim taught Babak to use Microsoft Word," the group said. Iran did not acknowledge that claim.

Activists had described Shahbazi as offering to fight for Ukraine. Iran did not elaborate on how it executed Shahbazi.

Af, India, China and Pak among major producers of illicit drugs: US

WASHINGTON, PTI

The Trump administration has named China, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan among 23 major drug transit or major illicit drug-producing countries, saying that by manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these nations are threatening the safety of the US and its citizens.

In a 'Presidential Determination' submitted to Congress on Monday, Trump said he has identified 23 countries as "major drug transit or major illicit drug producing" nations.

These nations are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

Trump delivered the "Major's List" to Congress, designating these countries as responsible for sourcing and transporting illicit drugs into the US, the White House said.

The State Department announced the Presidential Determination of these 23 countries, with five countries - Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, and Venezuela - listed as having "failed demonstrably to make substantial efforts," calling upon them to improve their counternarcotics efforts.

The State Department clarified that a country's presence on the list does not necessarily reflect its government's counterdrug efforts or level of cooperation with the United States.

The listing is based on "the combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs or precursor chemicals to be transited or produced, even if a government has engaged in robust and diligent narcotics control and law enforcement measures," it said.

Trump said Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, and Venezuela have failed "demonstrably" during the previous 12 months to both adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and to take the relevant measures to combat the threat.

'Fake' Pakistani football team deported from Japan: Agency

LAHORE, PTI: A "fake" Pakistan Football Team was deported from Japan following the revelation of its fraud, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said on Wednesday.

A human trafficking network was involved in sending a 22-member fake football team to Japan, the FIA said in a statement. The fake players were dressed in football kits and claimed they were registered with the Pakistan Football Federation. They also claimed to have scheduled matches with a Japanese club.

"The 22-member fake football team, which managed to get a 15-day visa, reached Japan in June 2025. However, it was deported by the Japanese immigration authorities from the airport, and the matter was then reported to the FIA," it said. The FIA launched an investigation into the matter, and on Tuesday, it arrested a prime suspect, Waqas Ali, a member of the human trafficking gang involved in the incident.

During the investigation, the suspect revealed that his network also managed to send 17 people to Japan in 2024, showing them as members of the Pakistan Football Team who never returned. The suspect revealed that forged letters and NoC of Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were used for the purpose.

Thai forces use rubber bullets, tear gas in border melee with Cambodian protesters

PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA), AP/PTI: Thai security forces clashed with protesters from Cambodia on Wednesday in a disputed border area, threatening a fragile truce reached in July after five days of armed combat.

Official statements from Cambodia said 28 people were injured over the course of several hours near what they called Prey Chan village in Banteay Meanchey province. Thai authorities referred to the same area as Ban Nong Ya Kaeo in Thailand's Sa Kaeo province.

No deaths were reported. Thai security forces used non-lethal weapons while Cambodian protesters, who appeared to be civilians, threw rocks and other objects.

Thai Border Patrol Police with Cambodians along a disputed area in Sa Kaeo province on Wednesday. AFP

Thai Army spokesperson Maj Gen Winthai Suvaree described the situation as a Cambodian mob encroaching on Thai territory, obstructing operations and destroying official property. He said Thai authorities regarded the incident as a provocation and an intentional violation of the ceasefire agreement.

In late July, the two countries engaged in five days of combat that killed dozens of people and displaced more than 260,000. The two countries agreed on a ceasefire only after mediation fostered by Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and pressure from US President Donald Trump, who threatened to withhold trade privileges unless they agreed on a truce.

Italy halts facial recognition at Milan airport

MILAN, REUTERS: Italy's privacy watchdog has suspended the use of facial recognition technology at Milan's Linate airport pending the conclusion of a long-running data protection investigation, documents showed on Wednesday.

Facial recognition screenings at airports have raised global concerns about the potential misuse of passenger data. The privacy watchdog in Italy, known as Garante, justified the suspension by saying there were insufficient safeguards at Linate to stop the use of facial recognition on passengers who had not signed up to it.

A cloud of smoke and fire rises over the field during military exercises of Poland and Nato allied countries in Orzysz on Wednesday. AFP

EU eyes deeper India alliance despite concern over Moscow ties

Brussels outlines areas of future cooperation

BRUSSELS, REUTERS

The European Commission set out plans on Wednesday to deepen cooperation with India in fields such as defence, technology and trade, despite tensions over New Delhi's close ties to Moscow.

The European Union and India are in the final stages of negotiating a free trade agreement, which they aim to conclude by the end of the year.

Negotiations, relaunched in 2022, have gained pace since the re-election of US President Donald Trump. Faced with Trump's tariffs, both sides have accelerated efforts to foster new alliances.

Sees India as economic, diplomatic partner

For Brussels, that means planned trade agreements with Mexico, South American bloc Mercosur, India and Indonesia. India sees promise in the European Union, but also in China and Russia.

India has increased purchases of Russian oil since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In the past month Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has held hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit in China, and its troops joined a Russian-led military exercise. On Friday, US officials called on G7 and EU states to impose tariffs on China and India over Russian oil purchases.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas acknowledged the EU and India had "clear areas of disagreement" that were obstacles to deeper cooperation, but said the bloc did not want to push India into "Russia's corner".

The European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic held a press conference in Brussels, Belgium on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The question is whether we leave this void to be filled by somebody else or we try to fill it ourselves," she told a press conference. In its document released on Wednesday setting out its vision, the Commission said the EU would further engage with India on curtailing Russia's military and preventing circumvention of EU sanctions. Despite tensions, the European Commission views India as a fellow upholder of the rules-based multilateral order, and hopes to benefit from its expected rise to become the world's third largest economy in 2030, the document says.

The EU envisages the two sides negotiating agreements on investment protection and boosting air transport, collaborating on securing supply chains, on green hydrogen, on decarbonisation of heavy industry and on research and innovation.

They could also agree a defence and security partnership, as the EU already has with Japan and South Korea, and cooperate in projects in third countries, particularly in Africa and South Asia.

India, UAE to discuss trade, investment, bank matters on September 18-19

NEW DELHI, PTI: India and the UAE will review progress of bilateral trade pact, double taxation treaty and central bank matters during the two-day visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to the gulf country, an official statement said on Wednesday.

Goyal is visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from September 18-19 to co-chair the 13th India-UAE High Level Task Force on Investments (HLJTFI), along with Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).

"The meeting will review progress on the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the Double Taxation Treaty, and UAE-IndiaCentral Bank matters," the commerce and industry ministry said.

Both sides will also explore opportunities for investment in key sectors, including maritime and space, that hold strong potential for growth, it added.

Rolls-Royce opens its largest GCC in Bengaluru

It is a 700-seat facility

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rolls-Royce on Wednesday opened its newly expanded 700-seat global capability and innovation centre in Bengaluru. The centre, which is the largest capability hub for the company, is built to house business teams and functions as well as enterprise services, engineering and digital teams, that support its civil aerospace and defence businesses.

This is in addition to the company's plans to double its sourcing from India over the next five years.

The facility was inaugurated at the Manyata Embassy Business Park. Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil, who opened the centre, said Bengaluru ranks among the world's top three aerospace cities for attracting foreign investments. "Our state hosts companies with strengths across the entire aerospace and defence value chain. In power systems and propulsion, leaders like Aequs and Collins Aerospace stand out. In structural and mechanical components, Wipro and Mahindra Aerospace are driving progress. In specialised technologies, Boeing, Airbus, and Pixxel are pioneers. And in end-manufacturing, Sarla and Tata Advanced Systems are making significant contributions," Patil said.

Industries Minister M B Patil (centre) with British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, Rolls-Royce Chief Financial Officer Helen McCabe, and representatives from Rolls-Royce at the inauguration of the Rolls-Royce's GCC in Bengaluru.

He added that the Karnataka Aerospace & Defence Policy offers an attractive incentive package for investors. "Here, research institutions, global companies, and homegrown startups work together to advance technology and manufacturing," he said.

Helen McCabe, Chief Financial Officer, Rolls-Royce plc, said, "India is significant to Rolls-Royce's global journey of innovation and progress. This newly expanded global capability and innovation centre reaffirms our commitment to India and will be our largest capability hub. As we expand our footprint, our focus remains steadfast on building a future-ready ecosystem, where we can co-create solutions with our teams and partners and deliver greater value for customers in India and worldwide."

Rolls-Royce's legacy in India spans 90 years, and today, over 1400 Rolls-Royce engines power various platforms of the Indian Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Army. More than 3000 people work across its ecosystem, including 2000 engineers. The company's annual underlying revenue was £17.8 billion in 2024, and its underlying operating profit was £2.46 billion.

Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India, congratulated the Rolls-Royce team on their new global capability and innovation centre in Bengaluru. "It was also an opportunity to celebrate another brilliant example of the UK-India partnership that is driving increased investments and creating new jobs across our economies," Cameron said.

'Over 70% of festive credit demand to come from smaller towns'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 70% of festive loan demand is expected from Tier 2, 3, and 4 towns, with the top 5 states (Maharashtra 13%, Uttar Pradesh 12%, Gujarat 10%, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu 10% each) contributing over 50% of total business, said MSME-focused digital lending NBFC, FlexiLoans.com.

On Wednesday, it released the festive season outlook report, projecting a significant increase in credit demand from the country's small businesses.

The report projects an ecommerce boom with 20-25% YoY growth, driven by Tier 2 and Tier 3 adoption and festive mega-sales, with ecommerce giants expected to clock Rs 1.2–1.4 lakh crore in gross merchandise value (GMV).

Ritesh Jain, co-founder of FlexiLoans.com, said this festive period will also create more jobs, as there will be a 15-18% surge in employment opportunities. Industry projections, including a CareEdge Ratings report, highlight accelerated MSME formalisation and credit growth as key drivers of this expansion. The surge, directly linked to the ecommerce boom and anticipated over 50% sales spike in key segments, is prompting SMEs across retail, logistics, and manufacturing to rapidly scale their workforce.

Jain also added that over the past four festive seasons, they have seen MSMEs increasingly rely on digital credit to capture consumer demand. With ecommerce and quick commerce accelerating in Tier 2 and 3 towns, 2025 is shaping up to be one of the strongest festive seasons for MSMEs."This festive season, we expect record participation from MSMEs in these regions," he added.

According to reports, NBFCs' MSME assets under management (AUM) is projected to cross Rs 5.3 lakh crore by FY26, growing at about 20% annually, outpacing banks. MSME loans rose from 5.9% of NBFC portfolios (FY21) to 9.1% (H1-FY25). Microloans (sub-Rs 10 lakh) remains the fastest-growing category, where NBFCs already command about 45% share.

FlexiLoans disbursed over 170,000 loans amounting to over Rs 10,000 crore, and it has worked with over 25 lending partners. With over Rs 2400 crore in AUM, the company offers term loans ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.

Tier-2,3 towns account for majority of the festive orders: Unicommerce

Tier-2 and tier-3 towns account for more than half of festive orders, lately. The share of festive season orders from Tier 2 & 3 towns (combined) has been 55.33%, 51.91% and 52.97% in 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively, according to an analysis by Unicommerce.

It stated that while beauty & personal care (BPC) and fashion & accessories have been the two top contributors of festive orders over the years, the FMCG sector has consistently led volume growth from 2022 through 2024, with food & beverages leading the numbers. In 2022, electronics & home appliances, and home decor drove festive baskets, whereas 2023 saw a pivot towards eyewear & accessories, as well as beauty & wellness products. By 2024, health & pharma and travel accessories joined the growth charts.

Fashion and accessories have consistently dominated festive purchases, with Karnataka and Maharashtra being the top volume-generators, driven by cultural preferences for festive apparel, it added.

Urban Company soars 74% in debut, hits nearly $3 bn valuation

REUTERS: Shares of home services platform Urban Company jumped 74% in trading debut on Wednesday, notching a valuation of nearly $3 billion, as investors bet on its dominant position in a mostly untapped market.

The stock was trading 63% higher, as of 11:32 a.m. IST, after hitting a day's high of 179 rupees.

It was listed at Rs 162.25 on the National Stock Exchange of India, a 57.5% premium on the issue price and surpassing expectations of two analysts who had predicted it at 40%-51% premium.

India's online on-demand home services market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 22.4% from 2023 to 2030, according to data firm Grand View Research.

The industry is largely unorganised and diversified, analysts have said. It leaves the Gurugram-based Urban Company, which offers everything from facial treatments to plumbing repairs, only a few competitors, mostly regional and offline service providers.

"Investor excitement stems from viewing this (Urban Company) as a structural long-term play on digital adoption and a proxy for the rising demand in home services," said Aishvarya Dadheech, founder of Fident Asset Management.

Among the biggest IPOs so far in 2025 - including HDB Financial, Hexaware Tech and Ather Energy.

Prosus doubles stake in Urban Company

BLOOMBERG: Prosus NV, known for its massive stake in Tencent Holdings Ltd, said it more than doubled its stake in Urban Co ahead of the startup's listing, and is now one of the firm's biggest shareholders.

The Amsterdam-based technology group now owns 7.35% of Urban after adding about 4% in the latest deal, Prosus India Ecosystem head Ashutosh Sharma said in an interview. Prosus has invested $139 million in the company, which has been in operation since 2021 and offers services from carpentry to house cleaning and masseurs, Sharma said.

Hyundai signs wage agreement with employees

CHENNAI, DHNS: After months of negotiations, Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) on Wednesday announced the successful conclusion and signing of the wage settlement agreement for three years from 2024 which includes a salary increase package of Rs 31,000 per month structured over a period of three years.

The wage settlement agreement was signed between the HMIL and the United Union of Hyundai Employees (UUHE), the recognized union, on Wednesday.

The long-term wage settlement, which will be effective from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2027, will include a compensation package that sets a new benchmark in the automotive industry, the company said in a statement.

"The package includes an industry-best salary increase of Rs 31,000/- per month, structured over a three-year period in the ratio of 55%, 25%, and 20%. HMIL continues to lead the industry in employee welfare," the statement added.

SBI divests 13.18% stake in Yes Bank to SMBC for Rs 8,889 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The country's largest lender State Bank of India on Wednesday announced the completion of the divestment of about 13.18% stake in Yes Bank to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation of Japan for Rs 8,888.97 crore.

State Bank of India (SBI) has received Rs 8,888.97 crore from the acquirer Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), a Japanese multinational financial services company belonging to the Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG), the bank said in a regulatory filing.

SMFG is among the leading foreign banks in India. It is the second-largest banking group in Japan, with total assets of about $2 trillion.

SBI became the largest shareholder of Yes Bank in March 2020 under its Reconstruction Scheme 2020, as notified by the central government, the PSU bank said in a statement.

Subsequently, SBI had also acquired additional shares as part of a follow-on public offer by Yes Bank in July 2020.

Post the aforesaid divestment, SBI will continue to remain a shareholder in Yes Bank with a holding of 10.8%, it said.

The partial stake sale by SBI and other shareholder banks in Yes Bank to SMBC represents the largest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector, it added.

The transaction has received the necessary regulatory and statutory approvals, including from the Reserve Bank of India and the Competition Commission of India.

SBI Chairman CS Setty said, "Yes Bank restructuring plan by the RBI in 2020 was an innovative, first-of-its-kind public sector -- private sector partnership that was fully supported and facilitated by the Government of India. We are incredibly proud of the journey we have shared with Yes Bank in supporting their transformation since we came on board as the major shareholder in 2020".

This is perhaps the best example of protecting the customer interests of a large bank by collaborative efforts of SBI and other banks under the guidance of the government and RBI, he noted.

"We are excited to welcome SMBC, a marquee financial institution, as a strategic partner through the largest cross-border transaction in India's banking sector. Their global expertise will be a great complement to Yes Bank's ongoing progress and future ambitions," he said.

SBI and the other selling shareholder banks were advised by SBI Capital Markets Limited as their financial advisor.

Air India Express becomes IATA member

MUMBAI, DHNS: In an important development in India's aviation sector, Air India Express has officially become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), underscoring the airline's commitment to global best practices in safety, operations, and customer experience.

This is a significant milestone at a time when it has been rapidly expanding its fleet, network, and partnerships, according to an Air India Express press statement issued on Wednesday.

IATA represents some 350 airlines from more than 120 countries, accounting for over 80% of global air traffic.

A condition for IATA membership is the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA), which is the global industry standard for airline operational safety auditing. Airlines have to comply with over 900 standards in order to achieve their IOSA registration.

"Becoming a part of the IATA family is a proud moment for us," said Aloke Singh, Managing Director, Air India Express.

ARM's new Bengaluru unit to design advanced 2 nm chips: Vaishnaw

BENGALURU, DHNS: The new Bengaluru unit of ARM, which is the Indian subsidiary of UK-based semiconductor company ARM Holdings, will design chips, including 2 nm (nanometre) chips for various electronic products, including mobile phones, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at the inauguration of the company's new office in Bengaluru on Tuesday evening.

Calling this a significant milestone in the country's semiconductor journey, the minister said, "Our objective is to design and manufacture semiconductors, along with the equipment and materials required for them. This is a very long visionary process, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided clear guidance on this. With a vision for the next 20 years in the semiconductor sector, our youth and talented engineers will get the best opportunities in the world."

Rupee posts best day in a month as investors gear up for Fed outcome

MUMBAI, REUTERS: The Indian rupee rose on Wednesday, supported by a weaker dollar ahead of an expected U.S. Federal Reserve rate cut and upbeat sentiment from trade talks with Washington.

The rupee rose to an intra-day peak of 87.73 during the session before ending at 87.8150, up 0.27% on the day, its best one-day gain since August 19.

The rupee sank to a record low of 88.4550 last week on worries over steep U.S. tariffs but has since gained 0.2% this week, aided by upbeat U.S.-India trade talks and expectations of imminent Fed easing.

"The negative bias on the rupee has eased slightly but it's quite likely that dollar demand related to importer hedging will limit gains near 87.50 in the near-term," an FX salesperson at a foreign bank said.

Trade discussions between Indian and U.S. officials on Tuesday were "positive" and "forward-looking", New Delhi said on Tuesday.

GENERIC OPENING

Bulk drug makers start preparing for Ozempic patent expiry

BLOOMBERG

Indian firms that make active pharmaceutical ingredients, or APIs, are gearing up to supply the basic ingredient that goes in making copies of Novo Nordisk A/S's weight-loss drugs that are losing patent protection next year in several large markets.

From local giants Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd to suppliers like Macleods Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Indian firms are preparing to make bulk drugs for manufacturing generic versions of semaglutide, that Novo sells as Wegovy and Ozempic.

Bulk drugs — also known as APIs — are the building blocks in making finished formulations of a medicine that are used by patients.

Drugmakers in India — the world's largest supplier of non-patented medicines — aim to tap what could be a $94 billion global opportunity by 2035 as patent on Novo's blockbuster therapies start expiring in 2026 in multiple countries including Brazil, Canada, India and China.

Dr Reddy's has invested in a 550-kilogram (1,212.5 pounds) peptide production facility, Nomura analysts led by Saion Mukherjee wrote in a July 15 report. Hyderabad-based Granules India Ltd has said it created a unit, Ascelis Peptides, to boost production of ingredients, including semaglutide in the June quarter.

Vasu Jindal, who runs a Surat-based bulk drug manufacturer, has started selling semaglutide to larger Indian generic drugmakers for research and product development.

While Jindal's firm will sell a mere 10 kilograms of the API by the end of this year, he is estimating annual demand from next year to skyrocket to as much as 240 kilograms, signaling the massive demand surge even smaller suppliers are anticipating.

Indian API makers will face intense price competition from Chinese companies, which control about 80% of global generic bulk drugs supply chain. Even some API makers in India rely on chemicals from China for making bulk drugs, reflecting a key area of vulnerability.

But an early start could be the key to success, especially since semaglutide is a complex biological molecule and harder to replicate.

The challenge for the ecosystem is "securing consistent, high-quality starting materials and scaling up purification," according to Hari Kiran Chereddi, managing director at Hyderabad-based HRV Global Life Sciences Pvt., which is also adding these drugs to its pipeline.

"That's why you're seeing API players quietly preparing well before patent expiry," he said.

TCS, Qualcomm to set up co-innovation lab in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Wednesday said it has partnered with Qualcomm to set up an innovation lab in Bengaluru to develop smart and scalable capabilities for enterprises.

The 'TCS Innovation Lab', equipped with 5G private network infrastructure and other hitech network and equipment, will develop capabilities for sectors that need agile IoT solutions, such as security and surveillance, healthcare, smart infrastructure, and manufacturing, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"TCS and Qualcomm will co-create smart, scalable, and sustainable Edge AI capabilities utilising Qualcomm platforms for industries moving towards a software-driven approach to make their systems more efficient and resilient in the lab. The co-innovation lab will enable the creation of customised low-cost solutions that can be deployed on intelligent devices, on location and in real time to streamline processes at large enterprises," it said.

'No job loss in Bhopal'

Meanwhile, TCS has denied reports that there has been job loss with closure of its Bhopal office "We consistently evaluate our infrastructure presence across cities. As a part of that, we have shifted our office in Bhopal. TCS remains committed to its growing presence in the state of Madhya Pradesh. We are in the process of expanding our world-class facility in Indore, which currently employs over 10,000 professionals," the company stated.

A view of the Tungabhadra river and the Kishkindha region from the Anjanadri hill in Gangavathi taluk. DH FILE PHOTO

TREKKING for heritage

A youth club in Gangavathi is climbing forgotten hills to uncover history, clean sacred sites, and revive green cover in the Kishkindha region, writes Pavan Kumar H

Almost every Sunday morning, when most of Gangavathi in Koppal district is still asleep, a group of 70 to 80 young people sets out on a trek. They carry backpacks filled with water bottles, breakfast, first aid and other essentials. Their destination is one of the many lesser-known hills in the Kishkindha region.

For the members of the Kishkindha Youth Trekking Club (KYTC), these treks are not only about adventure but also about uncovering forgotten historical and prehistoric sites. Along the way, they clean the hillsides and try to restore the landscape by scattering seed balls of native plants.

Formed in 2023 with eight members, KYTC has now grown to more than 250 registered participants who have completed nearly 91 treks in and around Gangavathi, Hampi, Hosapete, Anegundi, and other sites.

The members include engineers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, bankers, students, and homemakers, all drawn together by the mission of conserving the region's history, culture, and natural environment.

The club has set itself three broad goals: To identify and protect late Neolithic and early Iron Age megalithic sites, to free these historical locations from plastic, and to restore greenery by planting fruit-bearing trees.

Treasure trove

In the absence of dedicated discovery missions, researchers estimate that there could be more than 250 cave paintings at the prehistoric sites near Gangavathi.

"Gangavathi and the Kishkindha region are a treasure trove of history. The area is linked to the prehistoric era and, according to legend, even the Ramayana. The Vijayanagara kingdom flourished along the Tungabhadra river," says KYTC founding member Pavankumar Gundur. "And yet, we know very little about the region."

Recently, the group trekked to the forgotten village of Temba, a 400-year-old deserted settlement atop a hill. They now hope to draw the administration's attention to preserve its temples and collapsed houses.

"Initially, we started the group to explore the landscape. But when we realised that many of our historical sites were neglected and left unprotected, we decided to document them and create awareness among locals," says Pavankumar.

"Today, with over 250 members, we have been able to bring the issue to the notice of the district administration, the tourism department, the Archaeological Survey of India, and the State Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage. The government has responded, but progress has been slow," he adds.

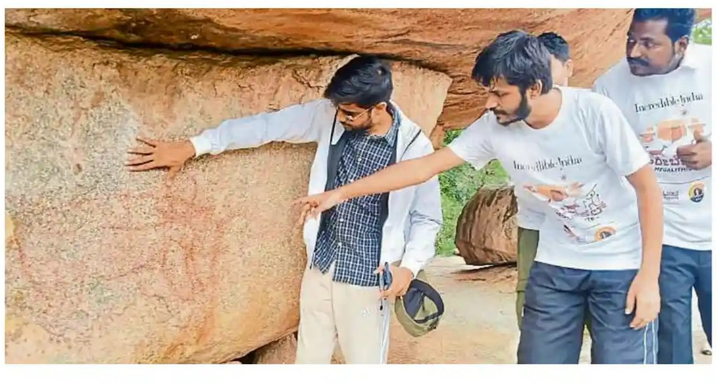
Historian Sharanbasappa Kolkar, who has spent nearly three decades locating and documenting cave paintings near Gangavathi, credits KYTC for getting senior district officials to visit some of the hills.

Tourism Minister H K Patil, who recently visited, has said that he would apply to include Hirebenakal in the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites and also provide financial assistance.

Alongside trekking, KYTC members also involve students from neighbouring schools and colleges. "These historical sites can only survive if more people know about them and learn to value them," Pavankumar explains, describing such visits as "open history lessons."

Megalithic cave paintings at Rakkasagavi.

Members of Kishkindha Youth Trekking Club at Hampasadurga and (below) Hirebenakal near Gangavathi. PHOTOS BY ARJUN G R



Clean up campaigns

Cleanliness drives are the second major focus of the group. In the past two years, KYTC has carried out at least 10 major clean-up campaigns in and around the Anjanadri hills. "During one of our visits, we saw plastic bottles and juice packs littered across the hill. Over two days, the team cleared six tractor-loads of waste from the caves and surroundings of the place that is considered the birthplace of Lord Hanuman," says Soumya S P, a parent counsellor at a private school in Gangavathi and a lead member of the club.

She adds that during every trek, members carry at least two bags to bring back plastic waste and alcohol bottles from the hills.

"It is unfortunate that we are destroying such scenic places with waste," she says.

Soumya recalls watching the sunrise from Balanjaneya hill, where the early rays turn the Tungabhadra into a golden river. "Some places are breathtaking and beyond words. Nature leaves us speechless," says Soumya, who often treks with her 10-year-old daughter.

Green cover

Since its formation, the club has also worked to improve the region's green cover. With summer temperatures rising to 45 degrees Celsius, animals are among the worst affected. To help them, especially monkeys and grey langurs, members have planted more than 350 fruit trees, including mango, pomegranate, jackfruit, guava, sapota, and banana plants.

"We have cleaned four step wells in Gouripur village in Kanakagiri, which is known to have more than 700 temple wells from the Vijayanagara period," says Santosh, a bank employee and club member.

"We also distributed 30 cement water bowls to residents who promised to provide drinking water for stray animals," he says.

All of KYTC's activities are self-funded through voluntary contributions from members. "Depending on the funds we collect, we take up different initiatives," Santosh explains.

Looking ahead, member Arjun G R says the group hopes to expand its responsibilities and work more closely with the administration to conserve forgotten historical sites.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

The first lady engineer of Mysore

Nemichandra traces the path of a woman in engineering in the 1960s, from Mysore's classrooms to NASA-linked labs

Exactly 65 years ago, in an era when a girl's career options were limited, a brilliant young student from a financially constrained background sought admission to the National Institute of Engineering (NIE), Mysore. Little did she know she would become the first lady engineer of Mysore University, which at that time encompassed all the engineering colleges in the erstwhile Mysore State.

Sixteen years later, when I entered the same college, engineering was still considered a male domain. I did not know much about Belthur Ranganayakamma until decades later, when I eventually met her during one of her many visits from the USA to India. Each meeting left me dazzled by her achievements.

Her journey was far from easy. Born in 1942 as the fourth daughter of Sanskrit teacher Belthur Gopala Iyengar and his wife Vedamma, she lost her mother before she had even turned one. At that time, her eldest sister Sringaramma was barely 13. A few years later, her father took Sanyas Deeksha and passed away soon after, a bolt from the blue for the young family. Compassionate neighbours stepped in to support the four children who had lost both parents.

Ranganayakamma once recalled a question posed by her interviewers before she was admitted to NIE: Would she be able to complete the degree and make use of her education, or would she simply waste a seat? Little did they realise that she would go on to be a trailblazer in research and development (R&D).

She secured admission but had no money to pay the fee of Rs 250. Incredibly, it was the Nizam of Hyderabad who came to her aid, even granting her a monthly scholarship of Rs 50 for the next three years. Whatever doubts the college authorities may have had, she proved them unfounded. For the next five years, as the only girl in the college, she was even given access to the principal's toilet.

Every day, she cycled more than six kilometres from VV Mohalla to Vidyaranyapuram. An elderly doctor and family well-wisher, Ashwathanarayana, had arranged for her to have a ladies' cycle. Her classmates were equally supportive, often accompanying her home after evening classes that ran as late as 7 pm.

In 1965, she graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Department, securing the first rank in the university every year and topping the final-year examinations. A certificate presented to her on March 4, 1965, at the farewell function read: "During the course, she has asked for no quarter, has been shown no special concessions. We point with pride to the fact that she has consistently been topping the list in her academic achievements."

She later pursued her MS at Stony Brook University, USA, where once again she was the only woman in engineering. Returning to India in 1970, she became the first woman engineer to join the Aeronautical

Belthur Ranganayakamma with husband Dr C R Prasad.

Development Establishment, Bangalore, under the Ministry of Defence. There she worked on the design of unmanned aerial vehicles, which were later developed into pilotless target aircraft, *Lakshya* and the *Nishant*. Rising to the post of Principal Scientific Officer and Scientist E in the Structures Department, she established an experimental stress analysis facility and made significant contributions to R&D in the field.

In 1991, she returned to the USA and became the first employee of Science and Engineering Services (SES). As programme manager and key technical lead, she oversaw the NASA Wallops task contract awarded to SES on the Upper Air Atmospheric Research Program, as well as numerous task orders from NASA Goddard, including work on Micro Pulse Lidars.

Her husband and colleague, Dr C R Prasad, was an "incredible support," collaborating with her on many research activities. Their daughter, Dr Brinda, is a research scientist specialising in infectious diseases. When I met her last October, I learned that she had continued working until nearly her 80th birthday. At 83 today, she celebrates life with her ever-loving family, which includes her two cherished grandchildren.

Ranganayakamma with a micro pulse light detection and ranging sensor.

Kittur's royal revolutionary

Suryakumari Dennison charts the course of a remarkable ruler's fight for freedom

Kittur, in the Belagavi district of Karnataka, dates back to the 12th century when it was known as Geejaganahalli. Today, the town is synonymous with Rani Chennamma, who challenged the mighty British East India Company.

A majestic statue of the valiant queen guards the entrance to Kittur, and a narrow road leads to the remains of a 17th-century fort and palace. Amid the ruins stands the modest Kittur Rani Chennamma Museum, inaugurated in 1967.

Curator Raghavendra points out a miniature replica of Kittur's fortified royal residence, as it was in its prestigious past. He explains that it had living quarters, kitchens, bathrooms, meeting halls and a platform where citizens assembled to voice their grievances.

A thousand people could be accommodated in a spacious dining area. Above all, there was an effective water-distribution system. Gardens with ponds and fountains adorned the 23-acre expanse, encompassed by a wall of black basalt rock. Intricately carved teak doors and windows are on display at the museum, as is the royal standard outside.

Rani Chennamma was the wife of Raja Mallasarja, the last of a long line of rulers of the Desai dynasty. In 1816, on the death of her husband, Chennamma took the reins of government to assist her son, Shivalingarudrasarja, Mallasarja's successor. Both Chennamma and Shivalingarudrsarja thought it prudent to adopt an heir during the latter's lifetime, since he was in poor health.

In September, 1824, soon after Shivalingarudrasarja's demise, His Holiness Gurusiddesha, of the nearby Kallumath (religious institution and spiritual home of Kittur royalty), enthroned the boy-king as Sawai Mallasarja II.

This tactical move, which contravened Lord Dalhousie's infamous Doctrine of Lapse, forced Rani Chennamma to defend Kittur in armed combat (the museum houses her weapons and armour) against the enraged British. Opposing her, in an epic encounter on October 23, 1824, was St John Thackeray, collector and political agent for the East India Company. As he and his troops prepared to attack Kittur Fort, Thackeray had no idea that Rani Chennamma had anticipated their arrival. Intending to use cannons to storm the gates, he found them open. A large contingent of Kittur soldiers charged out, and the British were defeated.

Among the casualties was 33-year-old Thackeray, who, while attempting to eliminate Rani Chennamma, was shot and killed by her bodyguard, Amatur Balappa. Thackeray and his compatriots are interred in the European Cemetery, Dharwad (32 km from Kittur).

Basavaraj Naikar's novel, *The Queen of Kittur*, not only provides a fascinating account of the life of Rani Chennamma, but information about Thackeray. The book mentions that he sent an English physician to treat Shivalingarudrasarja. Unfortunately, by then, the young raja, who was suffering from tuberculosis, was beyond medical aid.

Rani Chennamma's success against foreign interference was short-lived. Less than two months later, the British chose duplicity over diplomacy and launched another assault on Kittur. This time, Rani Chennamma's army was routed. Her palace and fort were demolished and their treasures plundered. The queen and her teenage daughter-in-law were imprisoned at Bailhongal Fort, not far from the scene of Rani Chennamma's erstwhile victory. According to Basavaraj Naikar, she was treated as befitted her rank and permitted daily pujas.

Rani Chennamma's health deteriorated in prison. She was sustained by the promise of Rayanna from Sangolli (15 km from Kittur), who had fought beside her, that he would restore her kingdom to its former glory. Rani Chennamma died, aged 50, on February 21, 1829. The monument that marks her resting place, at Bailhongal, is currently under renovation.

Sangolli Rayanna waged guerrilla warfare against the British until he was captured and subsequently executed. A banyan tree grows over his grave at Nandgad (28 km from Kittur), where a sapling was planted nearly two centuries ago. People flock to the spot, now a shrine, to pay homage to the hero. He and Rani Chennamma, whom he served faithfully, are among the patriots who paved the path for our independence.

The shrine and resting place of Sangolli Rayanna at Nandgad; the Kittur palace ruins. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Cue Sports Premier League from Oct 2

BENGALURU, DHNS: The second edition of the Cue Sports Premier League (CSPL) will be held at Bowring Institute's South Pavilion Snooker Arena from Oct 2-8.

Following on its inaugural edition last year, CSPL 2 hopes to raise the bar with an even stronger line-up of cueists and a different format.

Among the prominent Indians in action in the eight-team event are multiple-time world champion and the country's most successful cueist Pankaj Advani, his long-time rival Sourav Kothari as well as former professional circuit player Aditya Mehta.

The season will also see international players like Stephen Lee, James Wattana among others.

Pankaj Advani

IN BRIEF

Shlok Hockey Club edge FHC

▸ Lovekumar Kanogiyes scored a brace as Shlok Hockey Club edged Falcon HC 5-4 in the DS Murthy memorial hockey tournament at the KSHA Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Results: Shlok HC: 5 (Prajwal Mohankar 19th, Sundaram Rajwat 23rd, Mayur Dhanawade 26th, Lovekumar Kanogiyes 33rd, 25th) bt Falcon HC: 4 (Govind 5th, Bopanna 18th, Sundhar Raj 48th, 49th); RWFSA: 4 (Moksith 11th, Vishwa 29th, Deekshith 33rd, 42rd) bt Delhi Public School HC: 3 (Stephen Swamy 23rd, Abbas 36th, Shahanul Shafaz 40th).

Chakravarthy is No.1 in T20Is

▸ Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy on Wednesday rose to the top of the ICC T20 Bowlers' Rankings for the first time in his career, becoming only the third Indian to achieve this feat, reports PTI from Dubai.

The 34-year-old emulated fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi by moving up three spots following spells of 1/4 against the UAE and 1/24 in against Pakistan.

Sekhmet for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Kishan Thomas-trained Sekhmet, to be ridden by Antony Raj, is fancied to win the BA Nanaiah Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the Mysuru races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs at the races on Thursday.
The first race starts at 2:00 pm.
1. Fleet Indian Plate - 1200M: Natural Look 1, Adena 2, Always For You 3.
2. Eclipse Plate - 1200M: Estefania 1, Flamingo Dream 2, Gismo 3.
3. Kasargod Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Cascais 1, Pledge 2, Carter 3.
4. Dr. MAM Ramaswamy Trophy - 1600M: Aashirvad 1, Chotipari 2, Magic Circle 3.
5. BA Nanaiah Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Sekhmet 1, Irish Coffee 2, Crosswater 3.
6. Kasargod Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Perfect Attitude 1, Double Vision 2, Bellavita 3.
7. Fair Wood Plate - 1400M: Mystic Divine 1, Reign Of Terror 2, Cloudy Hills 3.
Day's best: Perfect Attitude.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
I treble: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET
Asia Cup: Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1**, Sony Liv.

ATHLETICS
World Championships: Day 6 **(3:05 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL
Champions League: Manchester City vs Napoli, Frankfurt vs Galatasaray, Newcastle vs. Barcelona **(12:30 am, Friday night)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

KABADDI
PKL: Jaipur Pink Panthers vs Bengal Warriorz **(8 pm)**, U Mumba vs Puneri Paltan **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Katie over the Moon in Tokyo

Nader stuns former champ Wightman for 1500m gold

TOKYO, AFP

American Katie Moon won a third consecutive women's pole vault title at the World Athletics Championships here on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Portugal's Isaac Nader outsprinted Briton Jake Wightman to claim a surprise gold in the men's 1,500 metres

In the pole vault final, Moon, also the Olympic champion in Tokyo in 2021, cleared 4.90m for gold, with US teammate Sandi Morris taking silver with a best of 4.85m. It was a fourth-world outdoor silver medal for Morris, a two-time world indoor champion. Slovenia's Tina Sutej claimed bronze with 4.80m.

Reigning Olympic champion Nina Kennedy of Australia did not travel to Japan, having pulled out with a strained leg muscle following hamstring surgery.

Meanwhile in men's 1500m, Nader produced a devastating attack in the home straight at the National Stadium to snatch victory in 3min 34.10sec, just two-hundredths of a second ahead of 2022 world champion Wightman.

Cherotich breaks CR

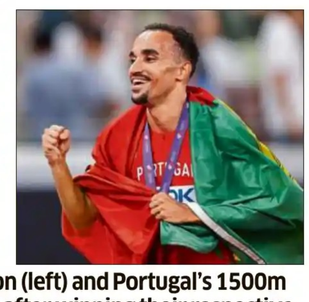
Kenya's Faith Cherotich overhauled defending champion Winfred Yavi on an incident-packed last lap to win the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase gold. reports Reuters. Still only 21, Cherotich added her first world title to the world bronze she won as a teenager in Budapest two years ago and the Olympic bronze she won in Paris last year.

Tentoglou's reign ends

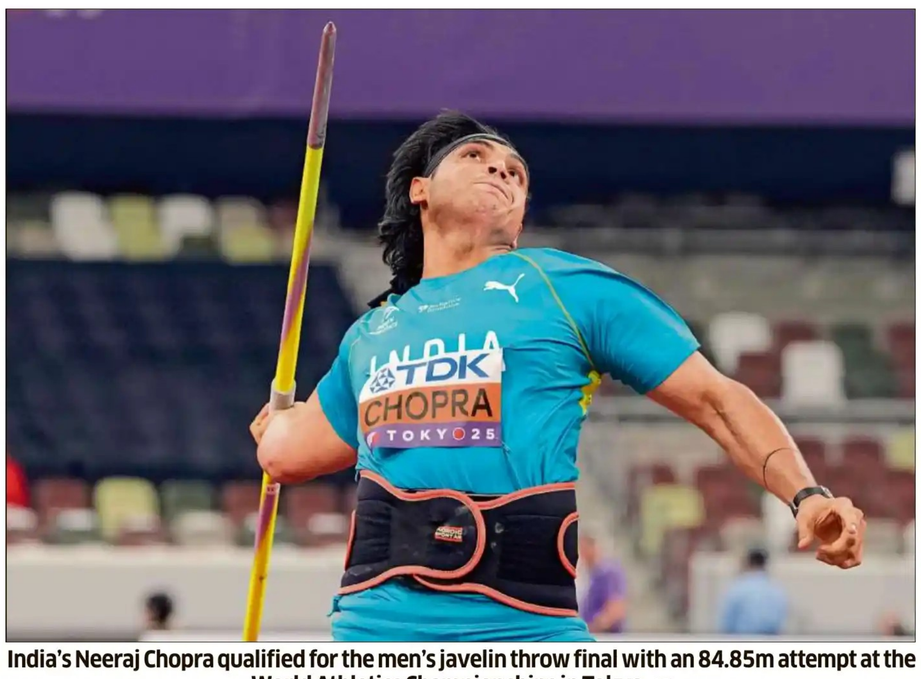
Meanwhile, Italy's Mattia Furlani underlined his status as the coming man in long jump when he won the world title with a personal best leap of 8.39 metres, as big favourite Miltiadis Tentoglou failed to make it to the second round of jumps.

The 20-year-old Furlani, the world indoor champion, became the youngest and first Italian winner of the title after speeding down the runway and soaring into the humid Tokyo night on his fifth attempt.

Results: Men: 1500m: Isaac Nader (POR) 3:34.10s, 1; Jake Wightman (GBR) 3:34.12, 2; Reynold Cheruiyot (KEN) 3:34.25
3000m steeplechase: Faith Cherotich (KEN) 8:51.59s, 1 (CR); Winfred Yavi (BRN) 8:56.46, 2; Sembo Almayew (ETH) 8:58.86
Long jump: Mattia Furlani (ITA) 8.39m, 1; Tajay Gayle (JAM) 8.34, 2; Yuhao Shi (CHN) 8.33, 3.
Women: Pole Vault: Katie Moon (USA) 4.90m, 1; Sandi Morris (USA) 4.85, 2; Tina Sutej (SLO) 4.80



USA's pole vaulter Katie Moon (left) and Portugal's 1500m runner Isaac Nader celebrate after winning their respective events at the World Athletics Championships. AFP/REUTERS



India's Neeraj Chopra qualified for the men's javelin throw final with an 84.85m attempt at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. AP

Classy Neeraj shows his pedigree

TOKYO, PTI

Defending champion Neeraj Chopra will face Pakistan's Olympic gold medallist Arshad Nadeem in the World Championships finals in a much-anticipated clash between the two cross-border rivals as the duo made the cut in contrasting styles in the qualification round here on Wednesday.

While Chopra stormed into the finals after clearing the automatic qualification mark of 84.50m in his very first throw in Group A with an 84.85 effort, Nadeem (85.28m) spent some anxious time before making the grade in his third and final attempt later in Group B.

According to rules, those who touch the automatic qualifying mark of 84.50m or the best 12 finishers compete in the final round to be held on Thursday.

Chopra is set to face Nadeem for the first time after the 2024 Paris Olympics, giving him a chance to avenge his second-place finish in the French capital. Nadeem had won gold in Paris with a monster throw of 92.97m, while Chopra had a best of 89.45m that night.

The Pakistani has come into the showpiece after competing in just one event in the whole of 2025, winning gold in the Asian Championships in Korea in May. He then underwent a knee surgery in July.

Sachin Yadav also joined Chopra in the finals as second Indian after his 83.67m effort placed him at sixth in Group A and 10th overall. Two other Indians, Rohit Yadav and Yashvir Singh missed out after finishing 28th and 30th respectively out of 37 competitors in Group A and Group B together.

In the last edition in 2023, India had three javelin throwers in the finals with Kishore Jena and DP Manu finishing fifth and sixth respectively while Chopra won the gold.

The 27-year-old Chopra was the first thrower in the qualification round and he sent his spear to 84.85m without much exertion. Having achieved the objective of making it to the final with minimum effort, the two-time Olympic medallist packed up and left the arena.

He was third in Group A and sixth in the overall standings but that did not matter on the day.

Nadeem, on the other hand, began with a horrendous 76.99m and followed it up with a 74.17m. It seemed for a while that Nadeem, who had also won a silver in the last edition in 2023 behind Chopra, would not make it to the finals.

But the 28-year-old pulled off a 85.28m throw in his third and final attempt to be the fourth automatic qualifier for the finals from Group B. He qualified for the finals at fifth place, just above Chopra.

Chopra has been clubbed with German star Julian Weber, who topped Group A.

Madrid survive night of fright

Juventus snatch thrilling draw; Arsenal win 2-0

PARIS, AFP

Arsenal won 2-0 away to Athletic Bilbao as the league phase of this season's Champions League kicked off on Tuesday, with two Kylian Mbappe penalties giving Real Madrid a narrow win over Marseille while Juventus and Borussia Dortmund drew an eight-goal thriller.

Tottenham Hotspur also won on the tournament's opening night which saw outsiders Union Saint-Gilloise and Qarabag claim first ever victories in the Champions League proper.

Arsenal are eager to make a big impression again in Europe's elite club competition, following their defeat by eventual champions Paris Saint-Germain in the semi-finals last season.

They got off to an ideal start in the Basque Country, with Gabriel Martinelli and Leandro Trossard scoring late goals to settle the game.

The Brazilian had only just come on when he ran through to open the scoring in the 72nd minute at San Mames. Arsenal then went on to seal the victory late on as Trossard -- another substitute -- scored.

Real Madrid came from behind to beat Marseille 2-1, despite playing the closing stages of the game down to 10 men.

Marseille, winners of the inaugural Champions League in 1993, stunned the home crowd by taking the lead through Timothy Weah midway through the first half.

The record 15-time European champions grabbed an equaliser before the interval when Mbappe converted from the spot for the first time after Rodrygo was fouled in the area.

Xabi Alonso's side lost Trent Alexander-Arnold to injury early on and were reduced to 10 men in the second half when his replacement, Dani Carvajal, was sent off following a VAR check for a headbutt on Marseille goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli.

But the home side still snatched all three points thanks to another Mbappe penalty late on after Facundo Medina was harshly penalised for handball.

Results: PSV Eindhoven: 1 (Van Bommel 90th) lt to Union Saint-Gilloise: 3 (David 9th, El Hadj 39th, Mac Allister 81st); Athletic Bilbao: 0 lt to Arsenal: 2 (Martinelli 72nd, Trossard 87th); Benfica: 2 (Barrenechea 6th, Pavlidis 16th) lt to Qarabag: 3 (Andrade 30th, Duran 48th, Kashchuk 86th); Juventus: 4 (Yildiz 64th, Vlahovic 68th, 90+4, Kelly 90+6) drew with Borussia Dortmund: 4 (Adeyemi 52nd, Nmecha 65th, Couto 74th, Bensebaini 86th); Real Madrid: 2 (Mbappe 29th, 81st) bt Marseille: 1 (Weah 22nd); Tottenham: 1 (Junior 4 og) bt Villarreal: 0.

Kylian Mbappe (right) celebrates after scoring Real Madrid's winner from the penalty spot against Marseille at the Santiago Bernabeu. AFP

Nikhil special helps FC Bengaluru United hammer MFAR

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nikhil Raj Murugeshkumar scored four times as FC Bengaluru United pummeled MFAR Students Union FC 8-0 in the KSFA Super Division league championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday.

After a quiet first 45, Bidyananda Singh broke the deadlock towards the end of five-minute added time to the opening half. Nikhil added a second four minutes into the second half to open the floodgates. Lijo K and MD Altab Hussain netted two goals in the span of two minutes to make it 4-0.

Lamkholen Doungel's own goal added to their misery in the 60th, while Nikhil found the back of the net in the 63rd, 80th and 88th minute to complete the mauling.

In another fixture, goals from Vivek Sheel Hemrom, Tony Huidrom and Shiju S helped ASC & Centre FC edge Bharat Bengaluru FC 3-2.

Results: FC Bengaluru United: 8 (Bidyananda Singh 45th+5, Nikhil Raj Murugeshkumar 49th, 63rd, 80th, 88th pen, Lijo K 50th, MD Altab Hussain 51st, Lamkholen Doungel 60th own goal) bt MFAR Students Union FC: 0; ASC & Centre FC: 3 (Vivek Sheel Hemrom 18th, Tony Huidrom 87th, Shiju S 88th) bt Bharat Bengaluru FC: 2 (Vishal B 84th, Michi Mudo 90th+1); MEG & Centre FC: 1 drew with FC Real Bengaluru: 1 (R Karthikeyan 18th).

MEG and Centre FC's Rohith Soman (left) and FC Real Bengaluru's Deepanshu Chapagain vie for the ball during their KSFA Super Division League Championship match at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Hovland, Lowry to headline DP World India

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ryder Cup stars Viktor Hovland and Shane Lowry will feature in the USD 4 million DP World India Championship, scheduled to be held at the Delhi Golf Club from October 16 to 19.

They will join a strong field that includes World No. 2 Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood and home favourite Shubhankar Sharma. The tournament carries the largest prize purse for a DP World Tour event in India.

Major winner Lowry, who lifted the Claret Jug at Royal Portrush in 2019, will be returning to Delhi for the first time since the 2010 Avantha Masters.

"Having the opportunity to play in front of golf fans all over the world is one of the best parts of my job, so I'm really looking forward to going back to Delhi for the first edition of the DP World India Championship," said Lowry.

Lowry will make his third consecutive Ryder Cup appearance next week, as Team Europe aim to defend the trophy they won in Rome two years ago.

Satwik-Chirag enter last-16; Sen shown the door

SHENZEN, PTI

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the men's doubles pre-quarterfinals with a straight-game win but India's challenge in the men's singles competition ended with Lakshya Sen's first-round ouster from the China Masters badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Satwik and Chirag, who finished runners-up in last week's Hong Kong Open, eked out a 24-22, 21-13 victory over Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap in 42 minutes, keeping their all-win head-to-head record against them intact.

However, Lakshya, who also finished second last week, lost 11-21, 10-21 to Toma Junior Popov in a 30-minute contest to bring the curtains down on India's men's singles challenge after Ayush Shetty's defeat in his opening match.

The mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto also made their exit after going down to second-seeded local favourites Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping 19-21, 13-21.

Satwik and Chirag were tested a bit in the opening game which went neck and neck till the end but the Indian duo edged past eventually to seal it in 21 minutes.

They took an early lead in the second game but Arif and Yap clawed back to make 5-5.

However, the Indians were in no mood to let them fight back and established an 11-6 advantage which the Malaysians could not surpass.

In the women's singles event, P V Sindhu had won her opening match on Monday to make the pre-quarterfinals.

She will be up against sixth-seeded Thai Pornpawee Chochuwong in her next outing.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (left) and Chirag Shetty entered the pre-quarterfinals of the China Masters after beating Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap 24-22, 21-13. AFP

Chawhan remains on pole position

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gujarat's Ishaan Chawhan shot a second successive under-par round to remain in front in the men's section of the IGU Bio-Gen Rotary Southern India Amateur Golf Championship at the Karnataka Golf Association here on Wednesday.

Chawhan, who opened the tournament with a five-under 67, fired three-under 69 to tally 136 and stay three shots ahead of Pritish Singh Karayat (70, 68). Karnataka's Sidhant Nathan slipped down the leaderboard to fifth after shooting level-par 72 to total 141.

Leading scores: Men (after 36 holes): **136:** Ishaan Chawhan (67, 69); **138:** Pritish Singh Karayat (70, 68); **139:** Anshul Mishra (69, 70); **140:** Harman Sachadeva (72, 68); 141: Sidhant Nathan (69, 72).
Ladies, Girls A & B combined (after 18 holes): 70: Anuradha Chaudhuri, Smriti Bhargav, Anvvi Dahhiya, Prarthana Khanna.
Ladies: 70: Smriti Bhargav; **73:** Ceerat Kang; **74:** Leya Viswanathan, Esther Marie Fernandes Lobo.
Girls A: 70: Anuradha Chaudhuri; Anvvi Dahhiya; Prarthana Khanna.
Girls B: 71: Guntas Kaur Sandhu; **74:** Smira Bhambri; **76:** Shiksha Jain, Rabab Kahlon.
Girls C: 72: Aida Thimmaiah; **76:** Ojaswini Saraswat; **78:** Teesta Singh Sikarwar.

Diksha for Indian Open

NEW DELHI, PTI: Seasoned golfer Diksha Dagar will spearhead the country's challenge at the 17th Hero Women's Indian Open to be played from October 9 to 12 with an enhanced prize purse of USD 500,000.

The DLF Golf and Country Club is set to host the event for the 15th time. The winner will earn USD 75,000. Since its inception in 2007, the tournament has showcased the rise of Indian women golfers on the global stage.

While Aditi Ashok remains the only Indian to have won the tournament in 2016, recent years have seen multiple Indian players making strong bids for the title.

Dhruv's ton puts Secretary's XI in control vs Mumbai

BENGALURU, DHNS

Dhruv Prabhakar produced an unbeaten 139 on Day 3 of the third round of Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament, stretching KSCA Secretary XI's lead to 486 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old batter slammed 17 fours and two sixes during his 314-ball innings, taking his side's overnight score of 88/3 to 388/6 at stumps. Dhruv had three important partnerships in the lower middle-order with Faizan Khan (53), Kruthik Krishna (77) and Rajvir Wadhwa (57 not out).

Frustrating the Shardul Thakur-led Mumbai bowling, Dhruv's fifth-wicket stand with Krishna stood out at 132 runs, while having an unbeaten partnership of 92 runs for the seventh wicket with Wadhwa. D'Souza (4-60) took two of the three wickets that fell on the day.

Meanwhile in Mysuru, KSCA Colts endured a middle-order collapse following the dismissal of centurion Harshil Dharmani (105). Resuming at 298/2 from the other day, Harshil and Aneeshwar Gautham (92) stretched their third-wicket partnership to 151 runs. Both, however, fell in the space of five deliveries at 328 to trigger the collapse as Colts were soon bundled out at 382, setting up a target of 358. In response, Baroda ended the day on 142/2, needing a further 216.

KSCA Secretary's XI's Dhruv Prabhakar scored an unbeaten 139 against Mumbai during their Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Brief scores: At M Chinnaswamy: KSCA Secretary's XI: 280 all out & (O/n: 88/3): 388/6 in 120 overs (Lochan 25, Faizan Khan 53, Dhruv Prabhakar 139 n.o., Kruthik Krishna 77, Rajvir Wadhwa 57 n.o.; Sylvester D'souza 4-60) vs Mumbai 182 all out
At SDNRW: KSCA Colts: 184 all out & (O/n: 298/2): 382 all out in 92.3 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 76, Toufeeq S 50, Harshil Dharmani 105, Aneeshwar Gautam 92, Sanjay Ashwin 26; Rasikh Dar 3-51, Bhargav Bhatt 2-95, Lakshit Toksiya 2-74, Pradeep Yadav 2-51) vs Baroda: 209 all out & 142/2 in 56 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 74 n.o., Shivalik Sharma 35 n.o.)
At Alur 2: KSCA XI: 270 all out & 181/8 in 65.1 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 60, Shrijith KL 55; Swapnil Singh 5-49) vs Tripura: (O/n: 246/6): 281/10 in 104 overs (Bikram Kumar Das 51, Anandh Bhowmik 34, Hrituraj Ghosh Roy 42, Bikram Debnath 37, Sentu Sarkar 51; Shashikumar Kamble 3-59, Vidwath Kaverappa 2-30, Vidyadhar Patil 3-34)
At Alur 3: Goa: 165 all out & (O/n: 198/7): 272 all out in 93.1 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 41, Manthan Khutkar 60, Lalit Yadav 87, Vikas Singh 26, Shreesha S Achar 5-94, Nischith Rao 2-36) bt KSCA President's XI: 97 all out & 165 all out in 43 overs (SU Karthik 52, Shreyank Sagar 63; Darshan Mishal 3-55, Mohit Redkar 2-38, Lalit Yadav 5-58)
At IAF: Assam: 153 all out & (On: 152/7) 179 all out in 67.5 overs (Rishav Das 25, Denish Das 83 n.o.; Japagnya Bhatt 2-30, Vishal Jaiswal 4-58, Amit Desai 2-35) lt to Gujarat: 244 all out & 89/4 in 17.3 overs (Bhargab Pratim Lahkar 3/38)
At Alur 1: Madhya Pradesh: 276 all out & 204/6 in 69 overs (Harshit Yadav 59, Rishabh Chouhan 69, Yash Dubey 32 n.o.; Shashank Tiwari 2-67, Shashank 2-27) vs Chhattisgarh (O/n: 245/8): 292 all out in 95.1 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 68, Ashutosh Singh 54, Shashank Chandrakar 103; Arshad Khan 3-53, Adheer Pratap Singh 3-44, Sagar Solanki 2-73)
At KINI Sports: Maharashtra: 404 all out & 24/1 in 8.2 overs vs Vidarbha (O/n: 192/3): 380 all out in 118.2 overs (Atharva Taide 137, Dhruv Shorey 38, Aman Mokhade 27, Yash Kadam 90, Shivam Deshmukh 35; Nikit Dhumal 2-67, Satyajeet Bachhav 5-83, Shamsuzana Kazi 2-85)
At SJCE: Andhra: 87 all out & (O/n: 198/1): 500 all out in 129.2 overs (Gnaneswar CR 50, Abhishek Reddy 107, M Hemanth Reddy 105, Ashwin Hebbar 83, GSP Teja 43; Mridul Surroch 3-110, Ankit Kalsi 2-40) vs Himachal Pradesh: 455 all out & 8/0 in 1 over.

High drama before Pakistan turn up to play late

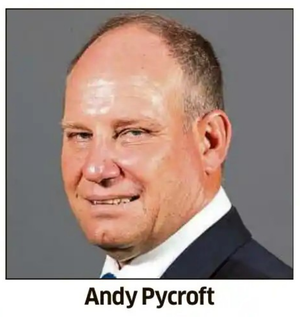
PCB handle claims match referee Pycroft apologised for his actions

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

After an evening of the 'will they-won't they' dance, Pakistan eventually saw the writing on the wall, hastily abandoning their plans to boycott their T20 Asia Cup fixture against UAE on Wednesday, which would have ended their interest in the tournament.

With their original request for match referee Andy Pycroft's removal from the event for his alleged role in the no-handshakes episode on Sunday against India summarily dismissed by the International Cricket Council, the Pakistan Cricket Board sent a second missive to the world body late on Tuesday night, asking that the former Zimbabwean batter be withdrawn from Pakistan's remaining matches. The ICC rejected that demand too, sending the PCB into a tizzy.

A boycott of their must-win game against the local lads seemed very much on the table until 45 minutes before the scheduled 6.30 pm local time start. While the UAE team arrived at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium by 5.00 pm, Salman Agha's men were asked to stay in their hotel while Mohsin Naqvi, the PCB chairman, held discussions in



Andy Pycroft

Lahore with Najam Sethi and Ramiz Raja, both former chairmen of the Pakistan board.

Around 5.45 pm, saner counsel prevailed, and it was officially announced that the match would begin an hour behind schedule, at 7.30 pm. The Pakistan team arrived at the venue a little before 6.30 pm. The toss was overseen a half-hour later by Pycroft, and Agha and Muhammad Waseem, his UAE counterpart, exchanged more than one warm handshake.

It is learnt that the Asian Cricket Council, also headed by Naqvi, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Interior, is not contemplating any action for the delayed start. The PCB, it is estimated, stood to lose approximately US $16 million had they chosen to pull out of the Asia Cup, apart from incurring other possible sanctions.

In a statement put out on X (formerly Twitter), followed by an audio-less video clip purportedly as evidence, the PCB said Pycroft had 'apologised to the manager and captain of the Pakistan cricket team'.

"The ICC's match referee, Andy Pycroft, has apologised to the manager and captain of the Pakistan cricket team," the statement read. "Andy Pycroft had barred the captains of India and Pakistan from shaking hands during their match. The Pakistan Cricket Board had strongly reacted to Andy Pycroft's actions.

"Andy Pycroft termed the September 14 incident a result of miscommunication and apologised. The ICC has expressed its willingness to conduct an inquiry into the code of conduct violation that occurred during the September 14 match."

Long before this statement, cricket's world governing body had thrown its lot behind Pycroft. In its second mail to the PCB, it stated emphatically among other things, "Following our investigation, we determined that there was no case to answer on the part of match referee for the Misconduct. The actions that match referee took was, following clear directions to him from ACC Venue Manager, were consistent with how a match referee will deal with such an issue, communicated as it was with no time for him to do anything else (minutes before the toss).

"Mr Pycroft was committed to preserving the sanctity of the toss and avoiding any potential embarrassment that might have arisen. The Match Referee was not at fault in any of this. It is not the role of the Match Referee to regulate any team or tournament specific protocols which have been agreed outside of the area of play, that is a matter for the tournament organisers and relevant team managers."

All done and dusted, then? One suspects not.

Ranji Trophy: Karnataka face Saurashtra first

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka will open their Ranji Trophy campaign in an away game against Saurashtra in Rajkot, according to the schedule announced by BCCI on Wednesday on its website.

Karnataka are scheduled to play seven group matches of which three are at home and the rest away.

Out of the three matches, two have been allotted to mofussil centres which have been starved of national-level cricket for a few years now.

The eight--time champions' second game is scheduled to be held in Shivamogga against Goa from October 25-28 while Hubballi will host the next home match against Chandigarh from Nov 16-19.

The third home fixture against Madhya Pradesh is inked to be held at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium from January 22-25. It must be noted that the City police has been denying KSCA the permission to conduct cricket at the venue since the June 4 stampede that claimed 11 lives.

K'TAKA FIXTURES

- Oct 15-18: vs Saurashtra (Rajkot); Oct 25-28: vs Goa (Shivamogga); Nov 1-4: vs Kerala (Mangalapuram); Nov 8-11: vs Maharashtra (Nashik); Nov 16-19: vs Chandigarh (Hubballi); Jan 22-25: vs Madhya Pradesh (Bengaluru, Chinnaswamy); Jan 29-Feb 1: vs Punjab (New Chandigarh).

Jagadeesan leads Ind A reply

LUCKNOW, PTI: N Jagadeesan's half-century helped India A reach 116 for one in reply to Australia A's 532 for six declared as rain forced early stumps on the second day of the first unofficial Test here on Tuesday.

Jagadeesan was unbeaten on 50 off 95 balls, with five fours and a six, while B Sai Sudharsan was 20 not out at the other end as India A trailed by 416 runs in the first innings. The two had steadied the ship after India A lost Abhimanyu Easwaran following a big opening stand of 88 runs with Jagadeesan.

Brief scores: Australia A: 532/6 decl. in 98 overs (Sam Konstas 109, Campbell Kellaway 88, Cooper Connolly 70, Liam Scott 81, Josh Philippe 123 n.o.; Harsh Dubey 3-141, Gurnoor Brar 2-86) vs India A: 116/1 in 30 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 44, N Jagadeesan 50 n.o.).

CRICKET ASIA CUP

Death-over specialist revelling in a new role

Unlike in the past, Bumrah has been predominantly used in the Powerplay

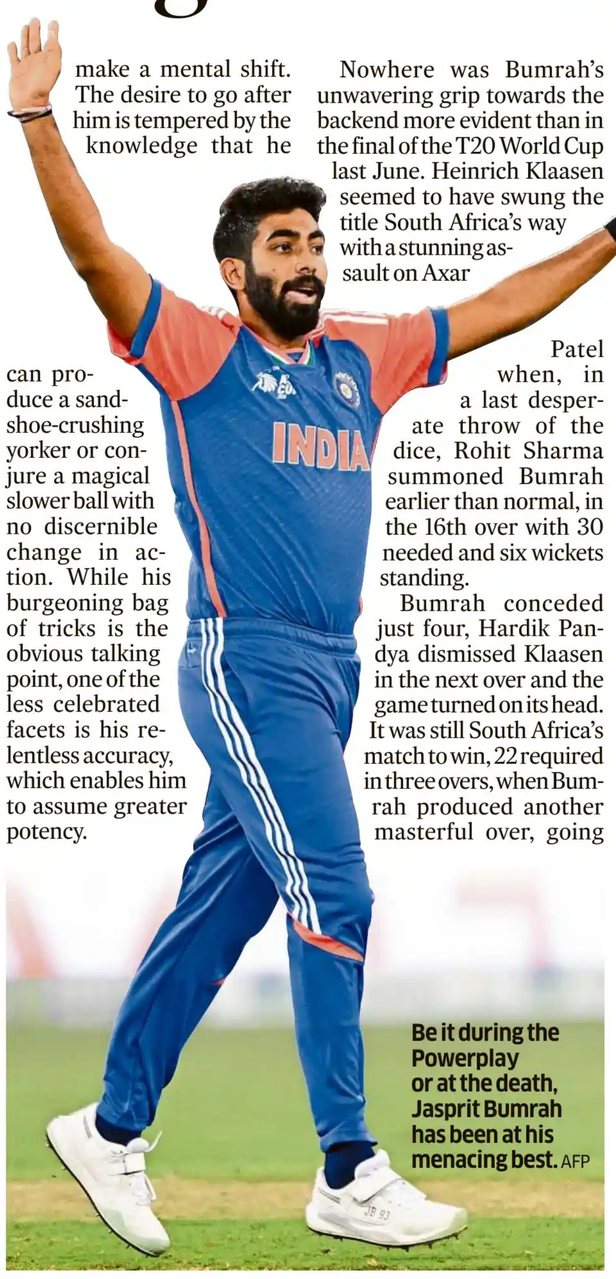
R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

Ask the most accomplished white-ball batters in the world who they would rather not face towards the closing stages of an innings, and the overwhelming majority will reply: Jasprit Bumrah.

Not without reason is the 31-year-old the most feared bowler in contemporary cricket. It isn't as if he isn't lethal with the new ball, but towards the end, he assumes a whole new dimension. At the best of times, he is impossible to line up.

The release of the ball just that little closer to the batter than anyone else, courtesy a hyper-extended right elbow, makes length-picking a challenging proposition. Throw in his multiple variations, each with no visible or evident cues, and it's not hard to see why he is the go-to bowler at the death for all captains.

Both at the international and franchise level, teams have tended to reserve as many of Bumrah's four overs in a 20-over fixture as possible for the second half of the innings. When he comes on for his final burst, batters subconsciously make a mental shift. The desire to go after him is tempered by the knowledge that he can produce a sand-shoe-crushing yorker or conjure a magical slower ball with no discernible change in action. While his burgeoning bag of tricks is the obvious talking point, one of the less celebrated facets is his relentless accuracy, which enables him to assume greater potency.



Be it during the Powerplay or at the death, Jasprit Bumrah has been at his menacing best. AFP

Nowhere was Bumrah's unwavering grip towards the backend more evident than in the final of the T20 World Cup last June. Heinrich Klaasen seemed to have swung the title South Africa's way with a stunning assault on Axar Patel when, in a last desperate throw of the dice, Rohit Sharma summoned Bumrah earlier than normal, in the 16th over with 30 needed and six wickets standing.

Bumrah conceded just four, Hardik Pandya dismissed Klaasen in the next over and the game turned on its head. It was still South Africa's match to win, 22 required in three overs, when Bumrah produced another masterful over, going for two and cleaning up Marco Jansen. In a spell of 2-0-6-1, he had driven the Proteas into a brick wall. Game sealed and delivered, with a nice ribbon tied around the gift.

At this T20 Asia Cup, India have used Bumrah in a role largely unusual to him. Coming into the tournament, in 70 previous T20Is, he had bowled three overs in the Powerplay just once, against Australia in Visakhapatnam in 2019. In 244 T20 matches in all, he had reprised that feat a mere 11 times. But twice here in Dubai, Suryakumar Yadav has given him three overs on the bounce first up.

Much of it is with one eye on the future, to figure out who else the death options could be if India continue to invest in the spin basket and leave Arshdeep Singh, India's next best death-overs specialist, out to warm the bench. In time, maybe even next week, India might revert to type and save at least half of Bumrah's allotment for later, or they may not. For now, this is the preferred mode of operation though India haven't really been tested in the last few overs at this initial stage.

Champions like Bumrah are worth more than their numbers because of the threat they carry and the pressure that overs in their bag create, often leading to success for other bowlers. He might be a Powerplay exponent for the time being but Bumrah at the death? Bring him on already.

Pakistan tail wags strongly as they reach 146/9

DUBAI, PTI

Pacer Junaid Siddique and Amritsar-born left-arm spinner Simranjeet Singh were exceptional in their execution but Pakistan's late-order surge got them to a fighting 146 for nine in a do-or-die Asia Cup group match here on Wednesday.

The match started an hour late as Pakistan threatened a pull-out after the handshake fiasco during the previous game against India before Salman Agha's team climbed down and showed up for the game. Simranjeet (3/26 in 4 overs) and Junaid (4/18) shared the bulk of the spoils in one of UAE's best bowling efforts in recent times against a Test-playing nation.

Once again, Pakistan's top-order, save senior-pro Fakhar Zaman (50 off 36 balls), failed and it was Mohammed Haris (18) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (29 no off 14 balls), whose use of the long-handle to good effect got them to a fighting score.

At the start, Junaid dismissed Saim Ayub for his second successive duck while Sahibzada Farhan's (5) pick-up shot went all awry. In the middle overs, the ball was stopping and coming onto the batters as Simranjeet's deliveries gripped and bounced.

Brief scores: Pakistan 146/9 in 20 overs (Fakhar Zaman 50, Shaheen Afridi 29 n.o.; Junaid Siddique 4-18, Simranjeet Singh 3-26) vs UAE.

Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman en route to his 50 against UAE on Wednesday. AP/ PTI

UAE in strong pursuit

Chasing a competitive 147 against Pakistan in the do-or-die clash, UAE reached 74/3 after 12 overs at the time of going to the press.

Afghans look to tame SL

ABU DHABI, PTI: Afghanistan will need to play with more flair and freedom in their must-win Asia Cup group match against Sri Lanka here on Thursday.

After their loss to Bangladesh, Afghanistan will need to get past a steady Sri Lanka to have a shot at making the super fours. A win for Afghanistan will leave them, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on four points each.

However, what could go in their favour is their superior net run rate of (2.150) compared to Bangladesh (-0.270), who are done with their league commitments.

Having reached the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup, expectations have increased from the Rashid Khan-led side. The spin heavy unit is yet to hit top form in Asia Cup, especially with the bat.

Afghanistan were expected to chase 155 against Bangladesh on Tuesday night but got themselves into a hole they could never get out of.

RP Singh

RP Singh, Ojha set to become new national selectors

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former India left-arm fast bowler Rudra Pratap Singh and left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha are set to become national selectors with the exit of S Sharath and Subroto Banerjee from the current panel headed by Ajit Agarkar.

One of the heroes of India's 2007 T20 World Cup win, RP, who had also bowled brilliantly in the preceding Test series in England, is coming in from the Central Zone having played most of his cricket for Uttar Pradesh.

He was also a part of the Parthiv Patel-led Gujarat team that lifted Ranji Trophy in 2016-17. RP will replace Banerjee.

From South, it was pretty clear that Ojha, the former left-arm spinner with 100 plus Test wickets was an automatic choice.

Sharath is set to replace Tilak Naidu as the chairman of the junior selection committee.

Eight Indians shoot World Cup final spots

NEW DELHI, PTI: Eight Indian shooters, including double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker, have secured their places in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, from December 4 to 9.

India will have representation in five of those 12 events.

Teenager Suruchi Singh, who dominated the women's 10m air pistol with three back-to-back gold medals in Buenos Aires, Lima and Munich, not only qualified for Doha but also secured the No. 1 rank in the world in women's air pistol.

Olympian Esha Singh also qualified in the women's 10m air pistol event with her gold medal winning performance in the fourth and final ISSF World Cup in Ningbo.

Others who have qualified include former world champion Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil, who booked his spot in the men's 10m air rifle with a gold medal in Buenos Aires.

Mandhana's ton levels ODI series

MULLANPUR, PTI

Smriti Mandhana smashed the second-fastest ODI century by an Indian woman as the hosts handed Australia their heaviest defeat — a 102-run thrashing — in the second ODI to level the three-match series 1-1 here on Wednesday.

Mandhana's onslaught of 117 off only 91 balls with 14 fours and four sixes in the first half powered India to their highest-ever total of 292, and despite plenty of dropped catches, the hosts recorded a huge win by bowling Australia out for 190 in 40.5 overs.

Australia's chase never found a momentum as India's sharp bowling and fielding kept them on a tight leash in the first 10 overs from which the visitors managed only 25/2, and it became an uphill task which they could not surmount despite their long batting line-up.

The series-deciding third and final ODI will be played in New Delhi on Sept 20.

India produced a collective bowling effort after setting a target of 293, with Kranti Goud the pick of the attack, returning figures of 9.5-1-28-3. Deepti Sharma was not far behind, striking twice after the 30th over to close the door on Australia.

Renuka Thakur (1/28) dismissed Georgia Voll (0) in the second over to set the tone and Goud accounted for the dangerous Alyssa Healy (9), getting her caught in the deep by Arundhati Reddy in the fifth over.

Brief scores: India: 292 all out in 49.5 overs (Pratika Rawal 25, Smriti Mandhana 117, Deepti Sharma 40, Richa Ghosh 29; Ashleigh Gardner 2-39, Darcie Brown 3-42) bt Australia: 190 in 40.5 overs (Ellyse Perry 44, Annabel Sutherland 45; Kranti Goud 3-28, Deepti Sharma 2-24) by 102 runs. **Series:** India level 1-1. **PoM:** Smriti Mandhana. **Third WODI:** Sept 20 (Delhi).

Smriti Mandhana celebrates after scoring a century against Australia on Wednesday. PTI

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA
CELEBRATIONS COME EARLY WITH
REDUCED GST & CESS 45% GST + CESS → 40% GST
BOOK NOW AND TAKE DELIVERY WITH NEW LOWER PRICE
ADDITIONAL BOOKING OFFER OF ₹11 000
VALID UPTO 20th SEP'25
ERTIGA
BREZZA
ARENA SAFETY SHIELD
6 Airbags | ESP® | ABS with EBD | Hill Hold Control^ | Reverse Parking Sensors
3-Point ELR Seat Belts | Seat Belt Reminder | 3 Years or 100 000 km Warranty**
SPECIAL OFFERS
ERTIGA ₹50 500* | BREZZA ₹92 440*
SCAN TO CONNECT TO SHOWROOM NEAR YOU
E-BOOK TODAY AT WWW.MARUTISUZUKI.COM
Contact us at 1800-102-1800
Applicable T&C are available at the dealership. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black Glass Shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Car color may vary due to printing on paper. Offers vary across variants. Maruti Suzuki India Limited reserves the right to discontinue offers without notice. *Offer includes consumer offer, exchange bonus and institutional or rural offer (wherever applicable) on selected models/variants. Above mentioned savings amount is the value of maximum savings on selected models. **3 years or 100 000 km whichever is earlier. Above offers are valid till 30th September, 2025. ^Hill hold control feature available in select variants and models only. ESP is the registered trademark of Mercedes-Benz Group AG. Offer valid for limited period. For further details please contact nearest dealer. Offers & price may vary as per model/variant. Prices subject to applicable GST rates as notified by the Government.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com